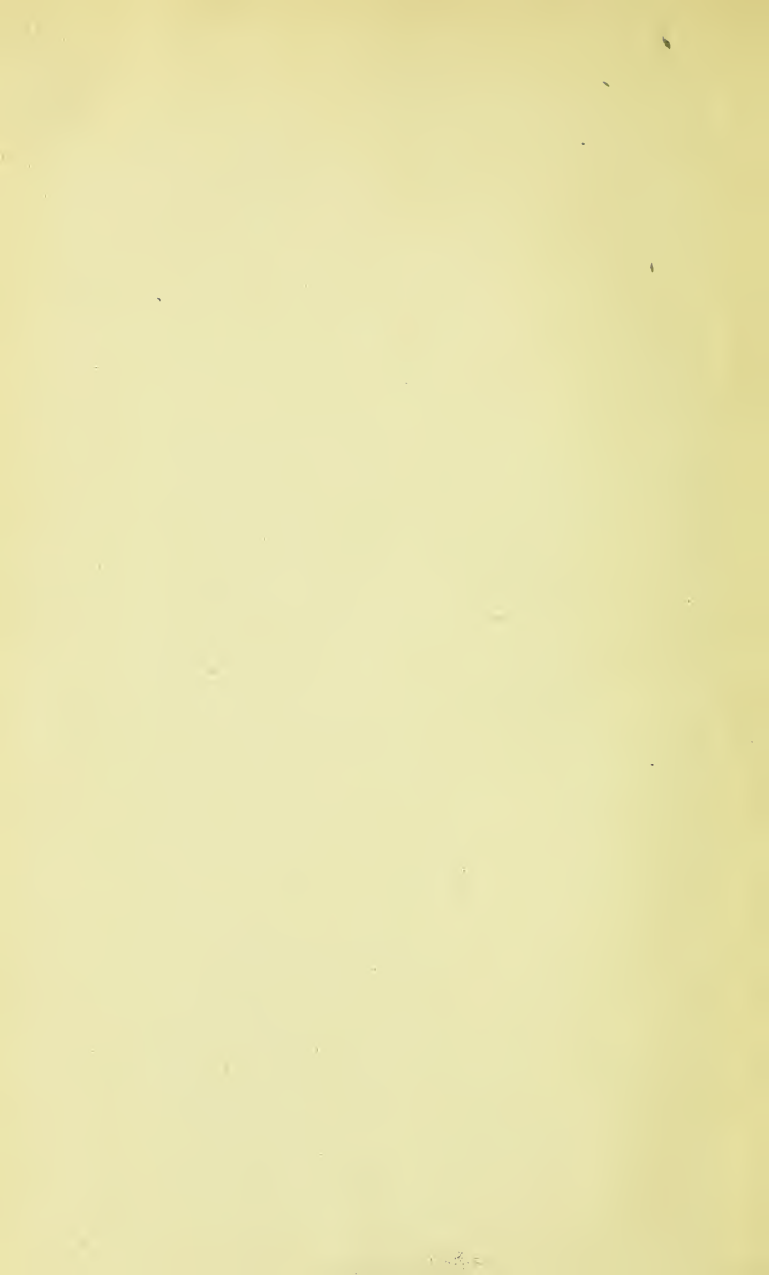




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THE AGE OF CLAY.

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THE AGE OF CLAY.

(ÆTAS ARGILLACEA.)

I. MORALS.

II. RELIGION.

A Rhythmic Satire.

BY

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"*The Workhouse, a Poem*;" "*Hyde Park*;" &c. &c. &c.

"Ubi philosophus desinit ibi incipit Medicus."

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DEDICATIO.

A D M I N E R V A M

CONJUGEM MEAM

CARISSIMAM AMANTISSIMAMQUE.

Eximiâ formâ muliebri prædita; miris
Muneribus morum, mentis et ingenii;
Insuper, insigni majestate ore venusto
Conspicuâ, et tenerâ magnanimâque fide.
Indolis ardentis, generosæ; animæque pudicæ;
Grata, verecunda, nobilitate nitens.
Mitis, honesta, decens, pia, amabilis, integra, casta,
Contenta paucis, absque timore mali:
Ast immota, Patri confidens Omnipotenti,
Candida femineis—Diva Minerva Mea!

W. B. M.

PREFACE.



“Tell Truth and shame the Devil.”

HOTSPUR (*Henry IV.* Part I.).



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THE ARGUMENT.

THE AGE OF CLAY.

“Ætas parentum, pejor avis, tulit
Nos nequiores, mox daturos
Progeniem vitiosiorein.’

HORACE, *Lib. III., Carm. vi.*

“Omne nefas. Fugère Pudor, Verumque, Fidesque ;
In quorum subiêre locum fraudesque, dolique,
Insidiæque, et Vis, et Amor sceleratus habendi.”

OVID, *Metamorphoses, Lib. I.*

“Me seemes the world is runne quite out of square
From the first point of his appointed course ;
And being once amisse grows daily wourse and wourse.

For from the golden age, that first was named,
It's now at earst become a stonie one ;
And men themselves, the which at first were framed
Of earthly mould, and form'd of flesh and bone,
Are now transformèd into hardest stone ;

* * * * *

For that which all men then did vertue call,
Is now cald vice ; and that which vice was hight,
Is now hight vertue, and so used of all :
Right now is wrong, and wrong that was is right.”

SPENSER, *Faerie Queene, Book V., Introduction.*

“The world is grown so bad
That wrens may prey where eagles dare not perch :
Since ev’ry Jack became a gentleman
There’s many a gentle person made a Jack.”

SHAKESPEARE, *Richard III.*, Act I.

“My ear is pain’d,
My soul is sick with ev’ry day’s report
Of wrong and outrage, with which earth is fill’d.”

COWPER, *The Timpiece*, Book II.

“Clay and clay differ in dignity
Whose dust is both alike.”

Cymbeline, Act IV.

HEALTH.

“Daughter of Pæon, queen of ev’ry joy,
Hygeia.”

DR. JOHN ARMSTRONG, *Art of Preserving Health*, Book I.

“Get health. No labour, pains, temperance, poverty,
nor exercise, that can gain it, must be grudged.”

EMERSON, *Conduct of Life*.

MONEY.

“Lucri bonus est odor ex re
Qualibet. * * * *
Unde habeas quærit nemo, sed oportet habere.”

JUVENAL, *Sat.*, XIV. 204-7 (*quoted from Ennius*).

“A lumpyshe blockehedded churle, and whyche hath no
more witte than an asse, yea and as ful of noughtynes as of
follye, shall have neuertheles manye wyse and good men in

subiectyon and bondage, only for this, bycause he hath a greate heape of golde.”

SIR THOMAS MORE, *Utopia*, Book II.
(translated by Raphe Robynson).

“ How quickly nature falls into revolt,
When gold becomes the object !
For this the foolish, over-careful fathers
Have broke their sleep with thoughts, their brains with care,
Their bones with industry ;
For this they have engross’d and pilèd up
The canker’d heaps of strange-achievèd gold ;
For this they have been thoughtful to invest
Their sons with arts and martial exercises ;
When, like the bee, culling from ev’ry flower
The virtuous sweets,
Our thighs pack’d with wax, our mouths with honey,
We bring it to the hive, and, like the bees,
Are murther’d for our pains.”

Henry IV., Act IV.

“ Money is the only power
That all mankind falls down before.”

BUTLER, *Hudibras*.

“ Tu te trompes, Philémon, si avec ce carrosse brillant, ce grand nombre de coquins qui te suivent, et ces six bêtes qui te traînent, tu penses que l’on t’en estime davantage. L’on écarte tout cet attirail, qui t’est étranger, pour pénétrer jusques à toi qui n’es qu’un fat.”

LA BRUYÈRE, *De Mérite Personnel*.

COMMERCE.

“ Thou shalt not steal.”

Exodus xx. 15.

Decayed Ships.	“ Oh ! merchants make more conscience in an oth,
Merchants.	Sell not your silkes by danger nor deceyte,
Adventurers.	Break not your bankes with coine and credite
Promoters.	bothe,
Directors.	Heape not your hoordes by wilinesse of weyght,
Felon Bankers.	Set not to sale your subtilties by sleight,
Thieves.	Breede no debate by bargayning for dayes,
Beggars.	For God will skourge such guiles tenne thousand
Cheats.	
Adulterators.	wayes.”

GEORGE GASCOIGNE, *The Fruites of Warre* (died 1577).

“Soyez constant dans les règles du commerce ; qu’elles soient simples et faciles ; accoutumez vos peuples à les suivre inviolablement ; punissez sévèrement la fraude, et même la négligence ou le faste des marchands, qui ruine le commerce en ruinant les hommes qui le font.”

FÉNÉLON, *Télémaque*, Liv. III.

“An honest man’s the noblest work of God.”

POPE, *Essay on Man*, Epist. 4.

“Only make it a man’s interest to be a rascal, and I think we may safely depend upon his integrity in serving himself.”

MACKLIN, *The Man of the World*, Act V.

“Mankind divides itself into two classes, benefactors and malefactors. The second class is vast ; the first, a handful.”

EMERSON (*The Conduct of Life*).

“The artful trick adulterating food,
 The balance false, the measure rarely good,
 The cook’d accounts that puzzle e’en the wise
 And swindle large by arithmetic lies,
 The pasty cloth that stands nor sun nor rain,
 The gritty bread, more sand than wholesome grain,
 The edgeless tools, the ships that will not sail,

Insur'd to sink and swamp'd without a gale.

Lo ! we have liberty, but scanty law."

Hilda amongst the broken gods, p. 205-6.

BETTING MEN.

"Clamor, et audax

Sponsio."

JUVENAL, *Sat.*, XI. 201.

MONEY-LENDERS.

"Sour, unrelenting, money-loving villains, who laugh at human nature and forgiveness, and are, like fiends, the factors of destruction."

ROWE, *The Fair Penitent*.

DRUNKENNESS.

"O Temperance, thou source of humane bliss, far exceeding our praise and admiration ! the glory and security of the first age of the world, which for thy sake was accounted golden ! the distinguishable beauty of Saturn's happy reign ! Those that regard thee, thou regardest, crowning a length of years with health and pleasure, with a countenance cheerful and amiable, with limbs brisk and active. Such, in short, are thy gifts and graces, as extort applause and encomiums from thy very enemies ; such thy worth, as the most intemperate must acknowledge ; whom the neglect and contempt of thee may render the proper object of that severe line of the satyrist—
' Virtutem hanc videant, intabescantque relictâ.' "

JOHN ALLEN, M.D., F.R.S., *Synopsis Medicinæ Practicæ*, 1733 (*Translation*).

Some * * by violent stroke shall die,
By fire, flood, famine ; by intemperance more
In meats and drinks, which on the earth shall bring
Diseases dire."

MILTON, *Paradise Lost*, XI. 470.

“Death deposes
Intemperance to do the work of *age*.”

YOUNG, *Night Thoughts*, IX.

“Pass where we may, thro’ city or thro’ town,
 Village, or hamlet of this merry land,
 Tho’ lean and beggar’d, ev’ry twentieth pace
 Conducts th’ unguarded nose to such a whiff
 Of stale debauch forth-issuing from the styes,
 That Law has licens’d, as makes Temp’rance reel.
 * * * * *
 Th’ Excise is fatten’d with the rich result
 Of all this riot ; and ten thousand casks
 For ever dribbling out their base contents,
 Touch’d by the Midas finger of the state,
 Bleed gold for ministers to sport away.”

COWPER, *The Winter Evening*, Book IV.

LUST.

“I rebuke no man
 That virtuous is, why then
 Wreke ye your anger on me ?
 For those that vertuous be
 Haue no cause to say
 That I speake out of the way.”

JOHN SKELTON, *Colin Clout* (died 1528).

“Quod sus peccavit, sricula sæpe luit.”

ANONYMOUS.

“Rode lustfull Lechery,
 Upon a bearded gote, whose rugged heare,
 And whalley eies (the signe of gelosy)
 Was like the person Selfe, whom he did beare.

Who rough and black and filthy did appeare ;
 Unseemly man to please fair ladies eye ;
 Yet he of ladies oft was loved deare,
 When fairer faces were bid standen by :
 O who does know the bent of womens fantasy ?”

SPENSER, *Facrie Queene, Book I. Canto iv.*

“Diseas’d ventures
 That play with all infirmities for gold,
 Which rottenness can lend nature.”

Cymbeline, Act I.

“Lust, thro’ some certain strainers, well refin’d,
 Is gentle love, and charms all womankind.”

POPE, *Essay on Man, Epist. II.*

OBSCENE LITERATURE.

“Nil erit ulterius, quod nostris moribus addat
 Posteritas : Eadem cupient, facientque minores,
 Omne in præcipiti vitium stetit.”

JUVENAL, *Sat., I. 147.*

THE STAGE.

1. Tragedy. “Magnumque loqui, nitique cothurno.”
 HORACE, *Epist. ad Pisones*, 280.

2. Comedy. “Interdum tamen et vocem comœdia tollit.”
Epist. ad Pisones, 93.

3. Burlesque. “Fescennina . . . licentia.”
 HORACE, *Epist., Lib. II., i. 145.*

“Actors I’ve seen, and of no vulgar name,
 Who, being from one part possess’d of fame,

Whether they are to laugh, cry, whine or bawl,
Still introduce that fav'rite part in all."

CHURCHILL, *The Rosciad*.

MUSIC HALLS.—PUBLIC GARDENS.

"Ambubaiarum collegia, pharmacopolæ,
Mendici, mimæ, balatrones."

HORACE, *Sat., Lib. I. 2*.

"Attonitæ crinemque rotant, ululantque Priapum
Mænades."

JUVENAL, *Sat., VI. 316*.

DANCING.

The Ball. "Behold the world how it is whirlèd round,
And for it is so whirl'd, is namèd so ;
In whose large volume many rules are found
Of this new art, which it doth fairly show :
For your quick eyes, in wandering to and fro
From east to west, on no one thing can glance,
But if you mark it well, it seems to dance."

SIR JOHN DAVIES, *The Orchestra (died 1626)*.

"Thy subtler art
Intoxicates alone the heedless heart :
Thro' thy full veins the gentler poison swims
And wakes to wantonness the willing limbs."

BYRON, *The Waltz*.

THE PARK.

"Triscurria patriciorum."

JUVENAL, *Sat., VIII. 190*.

“O earth on earth, it is a wondrous case
 That thou art blinde, and will not the knowe
 Though upon earth thou hast thy dwelling-place
 Yet earth at last must nedes the overthrowe.
 Thou thinkest the, to be no earth I trowe
 For, if thou diddest, thou wouldest then apply
 To forsake pleasure, and to learne to dye.”

STEPHEN HAWES, *The Pastime of Pleasure* (circa 1506).

“Here in orderly confusion—exceptive of cabs, omnibuses, organ-grinders, the proletary race, and that wandering Israelite, the old Clo’, the veritable descendant of Joannes Buttadæus—is mustered and clustered every degree of the commonwealth; and nobility and obscurity, hideousness and beauty, wit and ignorance, pravity and innocence, roguery and folly exhibit a motley conglomerate, familiar to the eye and ken of the social geologist, contributing their respective units to the fashionable integer.”

Hyde Park, 1871. By W. B. M.

LOVE.

“Bright wingèd child !
 Who has another care when thou hast smil’d ?”

KEATS, *Endymion*, Book III.

WOMAN.

“Frailty, thy name is Woman !”

HAMLET.

“Some waltz, some draw, some fathom the abyss
 Of metaphysics ; others are content
 With music ; the most moderate shine as wits,
 Whilst others have a genius turn’d for fits.”

Don Juan, Canto XII. 12.

CHIGNONS, COSMETICS, ADORNMENTS.

“Femina procedit densissima crinibus emptis,
Proque suis alios efficit ære suos.”

OVID.

“As pirates all false colours wear
T’ entrap th’ unwary mariner,
So women, to surprise us, spread
The borrow’d flags of white and red.”

Hudibras, Canto III.

“Often in my atrabiliar moods, when I read of pompous ceremonials, coronations, royal drawing-rooms, levees, couchees; and how the ushers and macers and pursuivants are all in waiting; how Duke This is presented by Archduke That, and Colonel A by General B, and innumerable bishops, admirals, and miscellaneous functionaries are advancing gallantly to the Anointed Presence; and I strive, in my remote privacy, to form a clear picture of that solemnity—on a sudden, as by some enchanter’s wand, the—shall I speak it?—clothes fly off the whole dramatic corps; and dukes, grandees, bishops, generals, Anointed Presence itself, every mother’s son of them, stand straddling there, not a shirt on them; and I know not whether to laugh or weep.”

Sartor Resartus, Book I. Chap. ix.

THE OPERA.

“Where the upper classes assemble twice a week, for the pleasure of hearing one another and seeing the music.”

HORACE SMITH.

THE BOAT RACE.

“Nunc, nunc, insurgite remis.”

VIRGIL.

THE RINK.

“ Ah ! tibi ne glacies teneras secet aspera plantas.”

VIRGIL.

THE ACADEMY.

“ Pictoribus atque poetis
Quidlibet audendi semper fuit æqua potestas.”

HORACE, *Epist. ad Pisones*, 9.

“ Good Heav’n ! that sots and knaves should be so vain,
To wish their vile remembrance may remain !
And stand recorded, at their own request,
To future days, a libel or a jest.”

DRYDEN, *To Sir Godfrey Kneller*.

THE FLOWER SHOW.

“ The spleen is seldom felt where Flora reigns ;
The low’ring eye, the petulance, the frown,
And sullen sadness, that o’ershade, distort
And mar the face of beauty, when no cause
For such immeasurable woe appears,
These Flora banishes, and gives the fair
Sweet smiles, and bloom less transient than her own.”

COWPER, *The Task*, Book I., *The Sofa*.

THE RACES.

“ Sciolo suadere popello.”

SPAGNOLI, *The Mantuan*, 15th Century.

RICHMOND.

“ O’er the lawns,
And o’er the vale of Richmond, where with Thames
Ye love to wander.”

AKENSIDE, *Hymn to the Naiads*, 1746.

BOATING.

“Les rameurs fendent les ondes paisibles ;
 Un zéphyr léger se joue dans nos voiles ;
 Il anime tout le vaisseau et lui donne
 Un doux mouvement.”

FÉNÉLON, *Télémaque*, Liv. IV.

TOBACCO.

“How little does a woman think when she marries, that she gives herself up to be poisoned.”

DOUGLAS JERROLD.

CRICKET.

“Pars in gramineis exercent membra palæstris.”

VIRGIL.

“Juveni lusus qui placuere.”

OVID.

THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

“Adonidis horti.”

In Adagium.

“Simia, quam similis turpissima bestia nobis !”

ENNIUS, *apud Ciceronem.*

“The structural differences which separate man from the gorilla and the chimpanzee are not so great as those which separate the gorilla from the lower apes.”

HUXLEY.

“If man had not been his own classifier, he would never have thought of founding a separate order for his own reception.”

DARWIN, *Descent of Man*, p. 150.

“By considering the embryological structure of man—the homologies which he presents with the lower animals, the rudiments which he retains, and the reversions to which he is liable—we can partly recall in imagination the former condition of our early progenitors, and can appropriately place them in their proper place in the zoological series. We thus learn that man is descended from a hairy, tailed quadruped, probably arboreal in its habits and an inhabitant of the old world. This creature, if its whole structure had been examined by a naturalist, would have been classed amongst the Quadrumana, as surely as the still more ancient progenitor of the old and new world monkeys. The Quadrumana, and all the higher mammals are probably derived from an ancient marsupial animal, and this through a long series of diversified forms, from some amphibian-like creature, and this again from some fishlike animal. In the dim obscurity of the past we can see that the early progenitor of all the vertebrata must have been an aquatic animal, provided with branchiæ, with the two sexes united in the same individual, and with the most important organs of the body (such as the brain and heart) imperfectly or not at all developed. This animal seems to have been more like the larvæ of the existing marine ascidians than any other known form.”

DARWIN, *Descent of Man*, p. 609.

“What do our so-called educated circles, who think so much of the high civilisation of the nineteenth century, know of the most important biological facts, of the indispensable foundations for understanding their own organism? How much do our speculative philosophers and theologians know about them, who fancy they can arrive at an understanding of the human organism by mere guess work or divine inspiration?”

HAECKEL, *History of Creation*, translated by LANKESTER,
Vol. I. p. 294.

* * * * *

“What are nobles to think of the noble blood which flows in their privileged veins, when they learn that all human

embryos, those of nobles as well as commoners, during the first two months of development, are scarcely distinguishable from the tailed embryos of dogs and other mammals."

p. 295.

"Not one of all the still living apes, and consequently not one of the so-called manlike apes, can be the progenitor of the human race. . . . The apelike progenitors of the human race are long since extinct. We may possibly still find the fossil bones in the tertiary rocks of Southern Asia or Africa."

p. 277.

* * * * *

"The transition from speechless, apelike men to genuine talking men probably took place at the beginning of the quaternary period, namely, in the diluvial period, but possibly even at an earlier date, in the more recent tertiary."

HAECKEL, *Vol. II.* p. 294.

"Very few of our race can be said to be yet finished men. We still carry sticking to us some remains of the preceding inferior quadruped organisation."

EMERSON, *Conduct of Life*, p. 98.

HURLINGHAM.

"Ranarum viscera nunquam
Inspexi."

JUVENAL, *Sat.*, III. 44.

Cruelty.
Vivisection.
Sport.

"They counte huntynge the lowest, the vyleste
and mooste abiecte part of boucherie. . . . as the
hunter seketh nothings but pleasure of the seelye and woful
beastes slaughter and murder."

SIR THOMAS MORE, *Utopia*, Book II.

"Ventre affamé n'a point d'oreilles."

LA FONTAINE, *Le Milan et le Rossignol*,
Livre IX., Fab. 16.

WAR.

“Thou shalt not kill.”

Exodus xx. 13.

Murder. “How vain is custom, and how guilty pow’r ?
Slaughter is lawful made by the excess ;
Earth’s partial laws just Heav’n must needs abhor,
Which greater crimes allow, and damn the less.”

SIR WM. DAVENANT, *Gondibert, Book II. Canto i.*

“If we contemplate the common life and the mutual relations between plants and animals (man included), we shall find everywhere, and at all times, the very opposite of that kindly and peaceful social life which the goodness of the Creator ought to have prepared for His creatures—we shall rather find everywhere a pitiless, most embittered struggle of All against All. Nowhere in nature, no matter where we turn our eyes, does that idyllic peace, celebrated by the poets, exist ; we find everywhere a struggle and a striving to annihilate neighbours and competitors. Passion and selfishness—conscious or unconscious—are everywhere the motive force of life.”

HAECKEL, *History of Creation*, p. 20.

“With all the people of antiquity, the Gauls, the Romans, the Athenians, the right of the strongest was the right of nations ; and from the same principle are derived all the political disorders and public national crimes that at present exist.”

VOLNEY, *Ruins of Empires*, p. 192, note.

“Were things but only call’d by their right name,
Cæsar himself would be ashamed of fame.”

Don Juan.

CRIME.

“If every man’s sins were written in his forehead and secret faults known, how many thousands would parallel, if not

exceed, thine offence? It may be the judge that gave sentence, the jury that condemned thee, the spectators that gazed on thee, deserved much more, and were far more guilty than thou thyself. But it is thine infelicity to be taken, to be made a public example of justice, to be a terror to the rest; yet, should every man have his desert, thou would'st peradventure be a saint in comparison."

BURTON, *Anatomy of Melancholy, Part II. Sect. III.*

"The foolish, the ignorant, the brutal, the deformed comprehend the far greater portion of mankind."

SIR WALTER SCOTT, *The Pirate, chap. 12.*

"Society is barbarous until every industrious man can get his living without dishonest customs."

EMERSON, *Conduct of Life, p. 52.*

POOR LAW.

"Is not this an vniust and vnkynde publyque weale, whyche gyueth great fees and rewardes to gentlemen, as they call them, and to goldsmythes, and to such other, whiche be either ydle persones, or els onlye flatterers, and deuysers of vayne pleasures; and of the contrary parte maketh no gentle provision for poore plowmen, coliaris, laborers, carters, yronsmaythes and carpenters; without whome no common wealthe can continewe? But after it hath abused the labours of their lusty and flowring age, at the last when they be oppressed with olde age and syckenes; being nedye, poore, and indigent of all thinges, then forgetting their so manye paynefull watchinges, not remembring their so manye and so greate benefites, recompenseth and acquyteth them most vnkyndly with myserable death."

SIR THOMAS MORE, *Utopia, Book II.*

"The lying relieving officer (known)
For relieving—the parish rate."

BARRY CORNWALL, *Dramatic Scenes.*

MISERY.

“This wide and universal theatre
Presents more woeful pageants than the scene
Wherein we play.”

As You Like It, Act III.

CHARITY.

“Sestertium donavit.”

MARTIAL.

GLUTTONY.

“Quibus in solo vivendi causa palato est.”

JUVENAL, *Sat.*, XI. 11.

LAWYERS.

“Judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth
afar off ; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot
enter.”

Isaiah lix. 14.

“Purpura vendit
Causidicum.”

JUVENAL, *Sat.*, VII. 135

“I know you lawyers can with ease
Twist words and meanings as you please,
That language by your skill made pliant
Will bend to favour ev’ry client ;
That ’tis the fee directs the sense
To make out either side’s pretence.
When you peruse the clearest case
You see it with a double face,
For scepticism’s your profession,
You hold there’s doubt in all expression.”

GAY, *Fab. I.*, Part II.

"The lawless science of our law,
That endless myriad of precedent,
That wilderness of single instances."

TENNYSON, *Aylmer's Field*.

"Men with consciences tender as the bellies of alligators."

DOUGLAS JERROLD.

DOCTORS.

"Medicine is of all arts the most noble ; but owing to the ignorance of those who practise it, and of those who inconsiderately form a judgment of them, it is at present far behind all the other arts."

HIPPOCRATES, *The Law (translation)*.

"The first physicians by debauch were made ;
Excess began and sloth sustains the trade."

DRYDEN, *Palamon and Arcite*.

"Vultu, gestu adgravitatem composito, suam tum ignorantiam tum diffidentiam fictâ velans audaciâ, venales phrâses ore doctorali profundit, et cum diu aliis sciens et volens imposuerit, semetipsum tandem deludit, ipse fallitur, et se magni momenti personam existimat."

F. B. de SAUVAGES, *Nosologia Methodica, Venetiis*,
1764, p. 2.

"Apollo was held the god of physic and sender of diseases.
Both were originally the same trade and still continue."

SWIFT.

"The people here judge as they do in the East ; where it is thought absolutely requisite that a man should be an idiot before he pretends to be either a conjuror or a doctor."

GOLDSMITH, *Citizen of the World*.

“Those all-daring rascals christen’d *Quacks*,
To whom our purse and lives are legal plunder,
Who, hawklike, keep the human species under.”

DR. WOLCOT.

“If you are going to die, a doctor cannot help you ; and, if you are not, there is no occasion for him.”

HONE, *Table Book*.

CLERGY.

“Speak ye every man the truth.”

Zechariah viii. 16.

“Grievous wolves
Who all the sacred mysteries of Heaven
To their own vile advantages shall turn
Of lucre and ambition ; and the truth
With superstitions and traditions taint.”

MILTON, *Paradise Lost*, Book XII. 508.

AMBITION.

“O quantum est in rebus inane !”

PERSIUS, *Sat.*, I. 1.

Fame.
Titles.

“Man still is sick for pow’r, yet that disease
Nature (whose law is temperance) ne’er inspires ;
But ’tis a humour, which fond man doth please,
A luxury, fruition only tires.”

DAVENANT, *Gondibert*, Canto VIII.

“Be but great
With praise or infamy, leave that to fate ;
Get place and wealth, if possible, with grace ;
If not, by any means, get wealth and place.”

POPE, *Satires*.

“Tam ficti pravique tenax, quam nuntia veri.”

ÆNEID, Book IV

“Not a man for being simply man
Hath any honour ; but honour for those honours
That are without him, as place, riches, favour,
Prizes of accident, as oft of merit ;
Which when they fall, as being slippery standers,
The love that lean'd on them as slippery too,
Do one pluck down another, and together
Die in the fall.”

Troilus and Cressida, Act III.

“Men are the sport of circumstances, when
The circumstances seem the sport of men.”

Don Juan, Canto V. 5.

“Thro' tatter'd clothes small vices do appear ;
Robes and furr'd gowns hide all.”

Lear, Act IV.

“Never title yet so mean could prove
But there was eke a mind that did that title love.”

SHENSTONE, The Schoolmistress.

“Lo ! this is one among my golden rules
To think *the greatest men the greatest fools.*”

DR. WOLCOT, Lousiad, Canto I.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

Ψυχῶν σοφῶν τοῦτ' ἐστὶ φροντιστήριον.

ARISTOPHANES, The Clouds (Strepsiades loq.).

“Clamosa sophorum
Agmina.”

CLAUDIAN.

“The learned pate
Ducks to the golden fool.”

Timon of Athens, Act IV., Scene 3.

“Ces conteurs
Qui n'ont jamais rien vu qu'avec un microscope.”

LA FONTAINE, *Livre IX. Fab. 1.*

“Who
Impale a glowworm, or *vertu* profess,
Shine in the dignity of F.R.S.”

The Dunciad, Book IV.

“The greater part of the sciences contain but one single
word—Perhaps.”

HONE, *Table Book.*

PARLIAMENT.

“M.P. or M.T. (empty).”

TOM MOORE.

LITERATURE.

“The republic of letters should be rather styled an anarchy
of literature.”

“The Citizen of the World.”

THE PRESS.

“Of all the cants which are canted in this canting world—
though the cant of hypocrites may be the worst—the cant of
criticism is the most tormenting.”

STERNE, *Tristram Shandy, Vol. III. chap. 11.*

“ Critics ! appall’d I venture on the name,
 Those cut-throat bandits in the path of fame,
 Bloody dissectors, worse than ten Monros ;
 He hacks to teach, they mangle to expose.”

BURNS.

“ The pulpit has been thoroughly supplanted by the newspaper.”

DR. DRAPER, *Conflict of Religion and Science*.

DEATH.

“ Mors sola fatetur
 Quantula sint hominum corpuscula.”

Juvenal, Sat., X. 172.

“ As rivers to their ruine hasty be,
 So life (still earnest, loud and swift) runs post
 To the vast gulf of death, as they to sea,
 And vainly travailles, to be quickly lost.”

GONDIBERT, *Book I. Canto iv.*

“ Life’s but a walking shadow ; a poor player
 That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
 And then is heard no more : it is a tale
 Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury
 Signifying nothing.”

MACBETH.

“ Qui peut avec les plus rares talents, et le plus excellent mérite, n’être pas convaincu de son inutilité, quand il considère qu’il laisse, en mourant, un monde qui ne se sent pas de sa perte, et où tant de gens se trouvent pour le remplacer ? ”

LA BRUYÈRE, *De Mérite Personnel*.

THE SEASIDE.

Παρά θῖνα πολυφλοίσβοιο θαλάσσης.

Iliad, I. 34.

“The dash of ocean on his winding shore.”

COWPER, *Task, Book I., The Sofa.*

TRAVEL.

“Many shall run to and fro.”

Daniel xii. 4.

THE AGE OF CLAY.



PART I.

IN the Saturnian Age, as bards declare,
Perennial spring and innocence abode,
Mankind at peace, with blissful skies content.
At length, by an inexorable law
Of decadence, less happy times ensued,
Consecutive, until the Iron age
Predominant the gentler reign usurp'd
Of golden, silver, and of brazen years.
So Naso sang : and Flaccus, in lament
Of his degen'rate century, bewail'd
Ignoble parents, ignominious sons.
Thus much the Roman, and, despite of pride,
The boasted graces of the Christian state,
And all its teachings simple and humane,
Our race deteriorates :—emasculate,
Bereft of even minor virtues own'd
By our forefathers in the age of Iron.
Wherefore, distinctive of the present scene
And panorama form'd by man, I name
Ourtime, with saddest truth—THE AGE OF CLAY.

Yet, optimists in vivid fancy dream
Of man's perfectibility ; affirm
An ardent trust in progress, and advance
To higher and more spiritual life.
And Evolution ? Cunning on the past
Is on the future silent ; whether man
In mind will change or body, or ascend
To grander being. Still, its facts afford
An argument impartial and direct
In favour of *developmental* views.
But what does hist'ry, what tradition say ?
That man is man, and ever has been man,
In character apparently unchang'd.
The earliest dwellers by the Nile, and those
Of Nineveh and Babylon, the Jew,
Phœnician, Persian, Grecian, Roman, Goth,
Hun, Vandal, Frank, Arabian, Turk and Celt,
Dane, Saxon, Norman, all alike present
The nature, and the attributes of man.
The folk of London, Paris, at Berlin,
Saint Petersburg, New York, Rome, Amsterdam,
China and India, Japan, Peru,
The Gold Coast, Saint Francisco, the remote
Pacific Isles and Papua—from Pole
To Pole—the same propensities display,
As constant as do horse, and sheep, and dog,
Which equally are modified in type
By geographical environment,
As climate, soil and food, with mode of life.
Man's actions, too, are qualified by laws
Appointed by his fellows. Uncontroll'd

By law, a very savage man remains
Brutish as stock or stone. In self-defence,
The family, the tribe, the clan decrees
Crude rules of conduct. Soon, the stronger arm,
The wiser brain, as leader or as chief,
Asserts its sway. Next man 'gainst man's array'd,
An enemy, oppressing or oppress'd ;
Lord, vassal ; victor, captive ; tyrant, slave.
By fav'ring aid extrinsic, barb'rous man
Less rude becomes, more settled life succeeds
Till serf and bondman struggle to be free.
Liberty, licence, revolution, each
Rule paramount, the demagogue and mob
Depose their king or governors. Again,
Man as a savage riots, unconstrain'd
By any civil, any moral law.
His natural passions unrestricted glow—
Cruelty, anger, covetousness, lust,
Deceit, and lying comprehend the sum
Of his existence. With enlarg'd desires,
More glutt'nous, more voluptuous he becomes,
Invents fermented and distillate drinks,
And quaffs of alcohol the poisonous cup.
Or from the musty juice of Syrian grape
Deriv'd, or humbler cereal, pome or rice,
Date, sugar-cane, potato, cocoa-nut,
Or stud of Tartar traversing the steppe
(Equine libation). The Kamtschatkadale .
Esteems the *Amanita* for carouse,
And with the draught, transmitted, toasts his friend,
From renal sources flowing, unimpair'd.

In *Ava*, Polynesians pledge their gods,
So Afric's sons with sap of simplest plants,
Succumb to the intoxicating spell.
Ebriety ! of curses most accurs'd !
Particular to man, exempt the brute ;
Madd'ning the sense, augmenting vicious moods
And instigating violence and crime.
How sad the contrast ! animals incline
Their bent untainted by the cask or still,
Whilst Man a Nemesis creates, and deems
The fruits of his excess a scourge from Heav'n ;
Imploring the Creator to avert
The dread results of self-inflicted ill.
A host of grievous maladies confronts
The drunkard—inflammation, heart-disease,
Consumption, madness, dropsy, ulcers dire,
Gout, indigestion, palsy, apoplexy ;
With mournful train of chronic woes and pains,
Degenerations, paroxysmal fits
Of melancholy, twin of suicide.
But evils cease not here. The suff'ring child,
Excruciate offspring of a sire deprav'd,
Tells his pernicious heritage, and dies
Either an early victim to attack
Of atrophy, convulsions, diarrhœa,
Rickets, or tubercle ; or, immature,
Attains an arduous manhood, and begets
A weaker progeny—more drunken still.
The theoretic moralist may cry,
“ A cynic rhapsody ; ” but I maintain,
England triumphant in her wealth and pow'r,

Land of the Gospel, fosterer of art
And science, home of the humanities ;
England enlighten'd, cultur'd, virtuous, free,
A saint amongst the nations ! reeks and reels
Immers'd in sin. The times are dissolute,
Vice sits supreme, tho' pens satiric strive
To bare and lash the folly, wickedness,
And infamy which stalk throughout the land.
May truth my muse inspire, in caustic strains
And sternest numbers, to denounce the rife
Malignant social evils of the Age.
Health and contentment—boons ineffable—
No longer form the chiefest joys of life.
The first, but little priz'd till undermin'd
Or lost, is rudely squander'd in pursuit
Of so-call'd pleasure. *Fashion* ridicules
Contentment, and, instead, excitement lures
Its jaded vot'ries. Self-indulgence (Self
Or *Egoismus* marks this Age of Clay)
Seeks to excite corrupted appetites,
Alien, factitious, despicable, gross ;
Until the system, pall'd and enervate
In stomach, heart, and brain, heeds not the goad
Of Luxury's supposititious aid,
But in collapsion perishes—a wreck.
The lust of wealth, drink, food, dress, ornament,
Libidinousness—immorality,
In act, in word, in thought—extravagance,
Disdain of earnestness, frivolity,
Flippant indiff'rence, insincerity,
Insensibility to others' pain,

And bland hypocrisy all ranks pervade,
Supplanting probity by guilty shams,
By condiments the simpler tastes of life.
Does happiness result from riches? Wealth
And wide demesnes on their possessor can
Delights confer, as means to ends, employ'd
Judiciously, with mind and body sound.
But gold to the intemperate or weak
Proves oft calamitous, a lethal fount
Of ever-flowing misery, which leads
To profligacy, drunkenness, and death.
Doubtless, the blessings of the nuptial tie
By Plutus' smiles may be enhanc'd; but oft
Dowries, annuities, and settlements
Love's substitutes betoken. Skeletons
Huge, grim and gaunt, boudoirs of palaces
As cruelly as paupers' huts infest.
In truth, more irksome. Money discord breeds
'Twixt wives and husbands; and the poorest pair
Are often happiest, since affection's rule,
And mutual warmth unites, united them.
Strifes, quarrels, litigations, too, prevail
'Mongst families and kindred as events
Of covetousness. Cares and torments vex
Testators, legatees, inheritors,
Presum'd and actual. The benefits
Of treasure in expectancy, when gain'd,
Not seldom are transmuted into dross.

The Epicure aristocratical
(Wealthier than many a German duchy's lord),

Who dines, Lucullus-like, a worshipper
Of Savarin, and gives his Gallic cook
More lib'ral stipend than a curate's pay,
In vain is tempted by most exquisite,
Profuse, and richest dishes, which comprise
The Cornucopia of the world. The wines
Of Burgundy, Epernay, the Moselle,
Johannisberg, Tokay, the Douro ; all
The choicest and most curious liqueurs
Charm not his languid palate. He complains,
A millionaire dyspeptic. (P'rhaps Cognac
His pulse exhilarates.) The rustic hind,
Incessant labouring from morn to eve,
Winter and summer, sunshine and in storm,
Feeds on the coarsest fare—oft sparing too—
And satisfies his thirst from Nature's rill,
Or draughts occasional of cider weak,
Beer weaker, weakest tea. Yet he enjoys
(Dependent on his labour for), digests
His meals, more blest than he 'mid lavish store,
Who sighs, like Tantalus, untasting all.
The snug and plodding citizen, obese
And opulent (replete in gorge and purse),
Fulfilling the respectabilities
Of life—exemplar to his juniors—
Oft after civic banquet feels a twinge
Podagrical, or biliousness severe.
He then bemoans his lustier youth, when gold
Was rare, but active his digestion. He
Envies the wretched scrub itinerant,
Whose nimble tubes less dainty food absorb,

Cull'd from the sordid restaurant, which steams
Unsav'ry odours in the thoroughfares,
Tempting the nostrils of the hungerly ;
Where puddings pil'd prodigious, beef transfix'd,
Hams, tongues, soup, dumplings, tripe, and other
viands

Allective to the rav'nous sons of toil,
Offer refection daily, cheap and hot.
The proletarian, from prosperity
Elate, turns often gain to punishment.
Increase of wages is the gen'ral source,
'Mongst artisans, of inebriety
With its conjunctive ills—neglect of wife,
Of children, tendency to cruel sports
And degradation to the vilest brute.

Commerce, which yearly leads to great increase,
A multitude enrolls. To ev'ry port
A fleet of steamers and of sailing ships
Mann'd by our seamen, wafts our merchandise.
And (is it credible ?) a murd'rous league
Of owners, eager to *enrich themselves*,
Reckless of human life and public scorn,
Commit their rotten vessels to the seas
(Protected by insurance overmuch),
Hoping to make a profit by their loss.
Yet, in these mincing days, our Parliament
Is reticent to stamp with shameful proof
These miscreants, who their villany so deep
Within the walls of Newgate should repair,
And on the gibbet expiate with life.

PLIMSOLL ! thy labours—spite of opposition
And insolent denial—to remove
This sanguinary stain from England's scroll
Deserve eternal praise ! O noble man,
Conspicuous benefactor in this AGE
OF CLAY ! our future mariners shall bless
Thee, Samuel Plimsoll ; thy detractors brand
With execration ; and until a ray
Of honour fails to light our sea-girt Isle
The name of Plimsoll shall in lustre shine,
And bear as epithet—THE SAILORS' FRIEND.

Mammon incites the trader to explore
The navigable globe and tracts unknown
Of distant continents. Of time and place
Himself availing, barter he incurs
With hostile races, heathen tribes, and life
For lucre hazards. Fortune proving kind,
And greed of gold increasing with his hoard,
He leaves an agent, and returning home
Expands his traffic. More important soon,
Colossus-like on 'Change, mart, dock, he strides,
Dealing in shares, stocks, bonds, scrip, loans ; and
buys
Cargoes of cotton, sugar, timber, corn,
Jute, coffee, tallow, tea, hides, pepper, fruit
And such commodities ; in suburbs rears
A mansion. Urg'd by his ambitious spouse,
He covets aldermanic honours. She,
Grown emulous to set the mode, bedecks
Her waning charms with ostentatious robes

Of fur and velvet ; for her portrait sits
(Exhibited, of course, upon the *line*
In Piccadilly), and herself persuades
To be a personage historical.
Poor woman ! she vulgarity confounds
And breeding ; nigh conceives that poverty
Is guiltiness. The most expensive, best
She fondly thinks, oblivious of the past,
More unpropitious, when with busy fists
Her husband's linen she so deftly lav'd.
Mayhap, from lucky ventures, he achieves
Renown of wealth (and charity) ; is made
Lord Mayor, Baronet ; and rich in years,
Possessions, grandeur, finally expires
Regretted, universally belov'd,
Leaving a son, to whom the Heralds' College
A pedigree supplies—and Wardour Street
Well-faded pictures of his Norman sires !

A gang of most atrocious scoundrels prowl
Within our cities—all their stock-in-trade
A miserable den or office (eight
By nine, upon the sixth or seventh stage
Of some old building—Chambers designate),
A desk, a stool, a ruler, ink and pens.
Adventurers, the title they assume
Of *share-dealers*, commission agents, or
Directors, the unwary to entrap
By circular, report, or publish'd list
Of mines, projections, and financial schemes
Inveigling with the bait of int'rest high

The poor man's hard-earn'd gains.

The common thief,
Or beggar, who appropriates a loaf,
A coat, a sixpence (in a sense he's *bold*
And dares the *risk*) is mercilessly hal'd
Before the magistrate ; to prison van
And cell consign'd. Repeating the offence,
The myrmidons of justice record bear
Against him, and the outcast makes atone
By penal servitude, as fate condign.
But felon-bankers, confidential clerks,
Promoters, merchants, brokers, or trustees
Are rarely punish'd, who infringe the law ;
Tho' they in ruin and despair involve
The widow, orphan, and lean shareholder
Investing life-long thrift.—A Gurney, Dent,
Or Collie is impeach'd (exception rare),
But leading counsel, learnèd in the law,
Raise technical objections. A remand
Obtain'd, *substantial bail's* alone requir'd :
That is, for *millions* fraudulently spent
Two to four *thousand* pounds are held enough
Security, and the *defendant* (who
Is never term'd the *prisoner*) upon
His own recognisances is allow'd
“To leave the Court surrounded by his friends.”
Meanwhile the culprit, smitten with alarm,
Lest his offence within the scope of law
Should hap to prove, reflects upon the course
To be pursued. Or he decamps to Spain—
That paradise of forgers, swindlers, knaves—

Where extradition treaties have no force ;
 Or impudently braves th' inquiry out,
A most unfortunate and injur'd man.

* * * *

The prosecution fails, and he retires
 In *free* enjoyment of embezzled pelf,
 When petty pickpurses, purloiners small,
 In *durance* forfeit liberty for years.

To make a fortune, Horace recommends
 By honest means, if possible ; but *now*
 Dishonest means are pref'erable. At least
 Dishonesty's the rule. Men whom the world
 Think honest (we must recollect the world's
 Dishonest too) to gull the crowd conspire
 By startling speculations. Companies
 Call'd Life *Assurance* (ominous the name)
 Entice confiding parents to secure
 At lowest rates, with gen'rous premiums,
 Provision for their family at death.
 Relying on prospectuses and *names*,
 By exercise of much frugality
 The annual payment punctually is paid.
 A panic follows. The insurers' hopes
 Are blasted by insolvency. Next comes
 The winding-up ; contributories plead
 Non-obligation, and thro' ev'ry phase
 Of trick'ry and chicanery attempt
 To prove that rogues and robbers martyrs are,
 Who, by desert, would rusticate in gaol.
 But why need individuals be nice,

When Governments their debts repudiate ?
Videlicet, Spain, Turkey, Honduras.

CHEATING'S THE RAGE. To it diplomatists
 And hucksters kneel. Wide-spread cupidity,
 Craft, competition, av'rice, pomp and brag
 Stagnate all moral feeling and provoke
 Unnat'ral thirst of riches. Arrogance
 Prosperity attends. Adversity
 Is craven. Lying, malversation, fraud
 Are justifiable (*discovery*
 The sin), and laws are mainly fram'd (applied ?)
 To check a too demonstrative *canaille*.
 The "great unpaid" provincial magistracy
 Immeasurable difference discerns
 Between the peasant's child that picks a flow'r
 And local squire who nearly beats to death
 A groom or railway porter. For the first
 Infraction of the laws,—imprisonment
 One week ; reformatory life, four years,
 The sentence. For the last,—a fine, five pounds.
 Or say a labourer (let's call him *tramp*)
 Is found at night reposing in a shed,
 Homeless, but harmless, hungry, tir'd and cold
 (The Union some miles off). The foll'wing day,
 A functionary dooms the man to pris'n,
As rogue and vagabond. His only crime,
 Defect of this world's gifts ; a crime which he,
 With opportunity, would only be
 Delighted to amend. But should the man
 A shovel steal, or fork, the outrag'd Bench

(A parson usually its oracle)
The malefactor to a term condemns
Of penal servitude.—The sister, wife,
Or daughter of a country gentleman,
During her purchases, a pair of gloves,
A handkerchief, a ring or brooch abstracts
(*Vulgo*, a shoplifter). The plea is urg'd
Of *Kleptomania*. The justices
Confer together. Promises are made
Of future vigilance. The *lady* weeps,
“Feeling acutely her position.” Still,
She’s mad, not wicked; so the Bench decides
To place her in the custody—of friends.
(’Twere hard, I own, to send the girl to gaol,
But it is harder far to send the man.)

Of the distractions of society
Involving ev’ry calling, ev’ry age,
Racing—or rather betting—foremost stands,
As many bet who never view a race
Or racehorse. In obscure tobacco-shop,
Beer-house, coal-office, bird-shop, coffee-house,
Betting abounds; at corners of the streets
And secret agencies the country o’er.
Here tradesmen, ’prentice boys, and all the class
Below the privileg’d, resort to bet,
Furtively staking monies oft acquir’d
By misappropriation. Woe betide
Th’ illicit crew should the police attain
A knowledge of their haunt. Taken straightway
Before the magistrate, a fine’s impos’d,

One hundred pounds or under, or six months'
 Incarceration, should it not be paid.
 The *privileg'd*, to "Tattersall's" who go,
 Of constables have no compunctious dread,
 Or penalties. With like impunity
 Betters and bookmakers escape the law.
 The welcher, thimblerrigger, cardsharper—
 Lesser offenders, Ishmaels of the turf—
 To summ'ry vengeance ever liable,
 In their rascality have something frank,
 And honour amongst themselves. In West-end
 clubs

Their occupation finds its prototype;
 But there and in the City this assumes
 Euphemious names, and mostly works conceal'd.

The money-lender (of the genus Shark
 Rapacious species) preys upon the heir
 Of property deferr'd; accommodates
 The youth at interest of cent. per cent.
 Or slightly less—one half in cash, one half
 In brandy or cigars. However, he
 Not smaller fry disdains. On bill of sale
 He lends one-third the value of the goods,
 And as the date expires (sometimes before),
 Unless his claims be paid, with watchful gripe,
 He swoops remorseless, ev'ry wrack removes,
 E'en coat and boots, if not as garments worn.
 The Pawnbroker—a horse-leech for the poor,
 The spendthrift, drunkard, stealer, demirep,
 Lying in wait, as spider in its web

(How blest the spot where never vermin dwell !),
No object that is vendible declines,
If small in compass. Watches, jewels, spoons,
Umbrellas, pictures, porcelain, mosaics,
A gun, a shirt, flat-iron, feather bed,
Are all engulf'd if pawn'd, at most, for less
Than half their worth. He seldom cares to ask
Unpleasant questions as to ownership.
And, peradventure, should Detective trace
A curious cameo, or antique gem,
Pledg'd by a shabby stranger, he imputes
The blame to his assistant. At the worst
The article is render'd up. The judge
And jury "most severely reprehend
His conduct," but he quits the Court unscath'd,
Less scrupulous, *with licence unrevok'd*,
Conscious of myriad disgraceful acts,
That one, and only one, has been reveal'd.
Still I was taught the maxim in my youth—
More criminal receivers are than thieves.
If, on the other hand, a driver *find*
Within his cab a stick, or parasol,
Unwillingly obtruded (treasure trove ?),
And fail, within *one* day, the waif to bear
To Scotland Yard, he's dragg'd by the police
As roughly as a burglar to the Court,
Convicted and amerc'd, or in default
Imprisonment endures. So justice strains
At gnats, but swallows dromedaries whole.
The hawker and the pedlar—Pariahs both—
Are narrowly and bitterly repress'd

By the authorities. No one defends
Their life and conduct as angelic, yet
Their culpabilities and punishments
Contrast profoundly with less venial guilt
In those who freely violate the law.
For instance, in a leading neighbourhood
The dairyman professes purest milk,
By rural kine supplied, to sell. Each day
The precious product is by railway borne
From distant farms, at one of which occurs
Scarlet or typhoid fever. By-and-by,
The germs of these, by water, air, or hand
Convey'd, infect the milk. With mischief fraught,
The poison'd fluid is to town transferr'd,
To families distributed—and then
An epidemic rages ! Worst of all
(The outbreak to its cause distinctly trac'd),
The dealer caution'd to suspend the sale,
Becomes defiant ; utterly ignores
Remonstrances and scientific facts—
For profit scatt'ring wide DISEASE and DEATH.
The punishment of this flagitious act
Is NOUGHT. Its perpetrator e'en complains,
Contrite by loss of trade and bankruptcy,
That customers avoid the venom'd stuff,
Resenting to be stricken down or slain.
Again, in a more homely district, we
Behold the milkman, who his stock dilutes
From well or cistern. From the first he draws
Water, polluted by contiguous drains
Engendering disease ; or, from the last,

Proportion so far to reduce the milk,
That it becomes unequal to support
Infantile life. Thus human guile perverts
Heav'n's nutriment to starving mockery.
Our nation groans beneath this wide abuse,
Especially the offspring of the poor—
The nation's strength—of elements depriv'd
Essential to, or rather forming, blood,
Bone, muscle, nervous tissue, teeth, and fat ;
In short, a healthy child. Throughout the realm
Chiliads of babies perish ev'ry year,
Impoverish'd, exhausted, sacrific'd
By vitiated diet ; whilst legions more,
Blemish'd and scrofulous, defects of growth,
Surviving hardly, ne'er robustness gain
Thro' life, from childhood's hurt and error rack'd.
Surely the legal chastisement of those
Who so offend must be *indeed* severe !
Till recently, no penalty attach'd
To such misdeeds ; of late a paltry fine
Of twenty shillings, to five pounds increas'd
On rare occasions !—Chapmen, who their wares
Sophisticate, deride our impotent
Enactments. They each day, each hour dispense
Adulterate provisions, drink and drugs,
By mulctuary perils undeterr'd,
Which threaten seldom, and are, from the spoils
Of treacherous defraudment, cheaply paid.
The caitiffs, who with wrongful balances
The bread and meat of indigence abridge,
Go virtually unpunish'd ; also those,

With few exceptions, who to market send
Unwholesome or putrescent flesh as food.
How light are visited commercial crimes !
Knowledge abets completion, and its guides
Are spuriousness, duplicity, and gain.
But there are sins against *the pow'rs that be*,
Tho' trivial, less readily condon'd.
To wit, the careless owner of a dog
Neglects the annual duty to defray.
Straight, prying officers the fault detect,
Cite and arraign the heinous man the charge
To meet, and press for penalty extreme,
Back'd by the thunders of *the Government*.
Due reparation's order'd, and a sum
Impos'd, equivalent to what is held
Sufficient to repress *atrocities*
Committed in the various paths of trade.
Th' unlucky knave much worse befalls who dares
The revenue officials ; and, by stealth
From vessel lying in a port attempts
Tobacco or cigars, on shore to bear,
Evading impost—*an imperial tax*.
A very heavy fine is promptly claim'd
(Sometimes one hundred pounds). If this not paid,
The articles proscrib'd are confiscate,
And sev'ral months' imprisonment ordain'd.
May Minos' shade the legislative mind
Induce to harmonise incongruous laws,
That *justice* be synonymous with *right*.

II.

THRO' ev'ry channel of society,
From throne to hovel—in the swarming town
And hamlet scanty—baleful alcohol
Streams pestilential floods. Intemperance
With man is co-extensive, and the most
Enlighten'd, civilis'd, Christian (forsooth !)
Amongst the peoples are most saturate
With fiery drink. Europe conspicuous stands,
And most notorious, England ; and the town
Darkest, most infamous, degraded ; steep'd
In drunkenness and accessory vice,
Seething in liquors tribute to the state,
Is Liverpool, emporium of the world.
Here Orangeman and Ribandman prolong
Ancestral rancour. Pulpit utterance
With bigotry resounds. Religion is
To politics subordinate. Each year,
By godliness impell'd, and Bacchus' cup
(Wretched antithesis), the Protestant
And Papist fracture skulls in frenzied hate,
Upholding worship with a rite of blood.
Sectarian malice paralyses zeal
For public good. Dissenter, Romanist,
And Churchman act aloof, in platitudes
Preaching verbose (their Master merged in Self),
Whilst fiercest orgies, dev'lish revelry,
The products of empoison'd blood and brains
Sodden by basest spirits, foulest beer,

With plague-spot stigma blacken Lancashire.
Cease theologic wrath, Church conf'rences,
Spasmodic ravings, savouring of the "stump"
From far Chicago, and Revivals all ;
Emotional, unhealthy excitants
Devoid of earnestness and usefulness ;
And if our bishops, priests, and presbyters,
Divines, and missionaries be sincere
(And not themselves inebriate), may they
Unite, forthwith, with all philanthropists
(If such survive to grace this AGE OF CLAY),
Against the might of vested interests,
To raise a grand crusade. The Brewing trade
Enormous capital and power wields.
Its representatives within the House
Of Commons laws to guard its rights dictate ;
And, at elections, licens'd victuallers
Decide the poll. Corruption, bribery,
And perjury from public-houses spring
(Norwich, to wit). A bench of magistrates
In town or country district gravely sits
Renewing, granting licences profuse ;
With Janus-justice punishing the crimes
To drinking due. Th' Imperial Government
Promotes the liquor traffic, as the source
Of greatest rev'nue. In this year of grace,
One thousand eighteen hundred eighty-one,
Ending in March, th' amount as duty paid
On spirits, in th' United Kingdom is,
Exclusive of the tax on wines and beer,
'Bove twenty mil~~l~~ions, which will near suffice *i/*

For all our armaments by sea and land.
Would Peace and Temp'rance join, no further need
Of Customs or Excise th' expense to meet
Of national defences ; but mankind,
For ever drunken, ever quarrelsome,
As oldest records tell, with course of time
In ebriosity more deeply sinks,
Becoming likewise more ingenious
In the infernal arts of murd'rous war.

Intoxication, with its sequent ills,
One of his most pernicious banes has prov'd
To man. The savage, by the liquid fire
Inflam'd, declines ; at last from long debauch
Exterminated. In a *Christian* land,
(Christian advisedly, as Mussulman,
Buddhist and Brahman normally abstain),
From manhood's dawn to sheer decrepitude,
The drunkard varies much in phase and grade.
In strong potations the bibacious sot,
Quaffing from day to day continual draughts
Of spirituous drink, presents a type
Familiar. Temperance to him remains
A long-forgotten state. In liquor drench'd,
Fuddled, not tipsy, from unceasing use
And thralldom of the bottle. His faculties
Hebete and wavering ; his judgment marr'd,
His aspect bloated ; reeling in his gait,
Now noisy, humorous ; now savage, dull ;
Guzzling his substance and his health away,
A spectacle and byword to the crowd.

Seldom in tippling deep does youth indulge,
Or jollity protracted caus'd by wine.
Symposiac revels of adolescence
Are chiefly episodes, or intervals,
The outcome of companionship. Alas !
In crowded cities where the standard's—wealth,
Where money, and not manners, makes the man ;
Where Cotton constitutes nobility,
Morality is torpid, passion gross,
Example profligate. Hence, striplings try
To copy seniors in rank and age
(Rank meaning money, money founding rank),
And riot heedless in a wild career
Of alcoholic drinks—untimely wreck'd
By dissipation. Should his vital pow'rs
Successfully the ravage of disease
Resist, th' inebriate boy, confirm'd, pursues
A drunkard's progress—all refinement lost
In degradation ; all domestic ties
Dissolv'd, destroy'd. Excitement, shamelessness,
And loss of character by turns result
In violence, brutality, remorse,
Delirium and horror (harbingers
Of anguish and despair), till madness strikes,
From epileptic or allied assault,
The tott'ring brain, and in perdition ends
A wretched and abbreviated life.
'Twere needless to rehearse in much detail
The hydra-headed forms of drunkenness
In man and *woman*. In the latter sex,
The habit's often secret (save amongst

The lowest classes). Grief, disease, and pain,
Bereavement, disappointment, widowhood,
Hereditary craving, solitude,
Are ordinary causes. There exists,
Besides, a vacillating frame of mind—
A want of mind, a true infirmity
Of purpose, morbid weakness or warp'd will—
In certain females, which disposes them,
With dipsomaniac propensity,
To stimuli. Such women seem to lack
In frequent instances, not common sense,
Nor education. There's analogy,
In some respects, between their mental state
And the hysteric passion, but the two
Are different, and insobriety,
More strongly than the mere desire of drink,
Similitude begets. (Hysteria
May be by alcohol intensified,
But the phenomena are yet distinct
From those occurring 'mongst inebriates
In womankind.) Chloral and opium,
Eau-de-Cologne and sal-volatile
Are oftentimes secreted in their dress
By females fetter'd with invet'rate bonds
Of drunkenness: and dipsomaniac men
Are omnibibent. Spirits rectified,
Tinctures medicinal, narcotic drugs,
Camphor and turpentine are swallow'd up
With eagerness by the demented mob
Of Comus. Women in the humbler ranks,
Of drunken habits, banish ev'ry thought

Of decency and shame, and forfeit all
Maternal sentiments. Their children's clothes
They pledge and sell, neglect their babies,—who
Perish from over-laying, poison, want
Of breast milk, inattention or disease—
And disregard their husbands' home and peace.
For these there's no reclaim. Their partners too
May be habitual toppers. Many a man
And woman lead a drunken, desp'rate life ;
Are kill'd by misadventure or design,
From stabbing, kicking, brawl or pot-house fray ;
Die suddenly in midnight lock-up, or
An inquest with the pungent text afford,
“Death from excessive drinking,”—whilst the
 friends,
Besotted, celebrate a fun'ral wail,
And roll unheeding o'er the shroudless dead !

Drunkenness levels caste ; to king and clown
Is common ground, evoking ev'ry trait,
Dishonouring mankind, from selfishness
To murder and all crimes conceivable.
Drunkenness, pregnant with disease and death,
Claims an official army to control
Its deleterious action, and adjust
Its consequences. Prisons, refuges,
Asylums, hospitals, reformatories,
Madhouses, workhouses a staff entail
Of judges, gaolers, magistrates, police,
Matrons, attendants, nurses, governors,
Chaplains and doctors ; also coroners,

And last, not least, THE HANGMAN. Add to these

The supplemental multitude engag'd
In distillation, brewing, the excise,
Retailing beer and alcohol, and those
Employ'd subservient to the appetite
Of drinking and its sequences, the sum
Becomes portentous, and declares the sad
But obvious fact, that man exults and thrives
On the distress and sin of fellow-man.

III.

OF all the passions dominating man,
The most imperious is—Debauchery.
Annals, profane and sacred, loud proclaim,
From times the most remote until to-day,
This glaring truth. (Addiction to the use
Of stimulating liquors aggravates
Immoral ardour. Malefactors urge,
In ruffianly and criminal attacks,—
As mitigation of felonious
Attempts their lawless deeds to perpetrate,—
Th' excuse of impulse uncontrollable
Or of oblivion from excess of drink.
But such a plea should render their offence
More heinous and more penal, and invoke,
For double crime, more stringent punishment.)
Needs there apology, that I discuss

A topic so repulsive, when our fair
And gentle matrons on the platform shriek
With socio-political dismay
'Gainst legislative measures to curtail
Disease contagious ? which disease, *indeed*,
Upon the children visits parents' sin.
Needs there apology, I ask, that I
Iniquities describe which ev'ry rank
Commits without concealment, without blush,
Or semblance of apology ? I may
Apologise, but only that I lack
Th' invective talent of a JUVENAL,
And can but feebly reprobate an age
With prurience fest'ring and impurity.
Exempli gratiâ—read the daily press,
The weekly papers, current lit'rature,
The present novel. Watch the modern stage ;
Visit Cremorne, th' Alhambra, Argyll Rooms,
And peer into the music-halls from East
To Western London—Pandemonia,
As terrible beneath their garniture
As famed Gehenna's valley. Penetrate
Alsatian dens which thickly blot our towns,
Well known to missionaries and police,
Where wantonness in tumult all restraint
Discards. Ascend the social ladder. Move
In various orbits of society.
To balls, routs, races, fêtes and " Lord's " repair,
To Richmond, flower-shows and Hurlingham,
" Prince's " and Lillie Bridge, " Th' Academy,"
Park, opera, the theatre, and Zoo,

Ryde, Cowes, the country-house, seaside, hotels,
The Continent (query, *In-continent* ?) ;
Observe the worship of the Cyprian
'Mongst high and low, and note her madding train.

The newspaper (of the Aryan race
Chief medium), with telegraphic aids,
Intelligence disperses o'er the globe,
Exerting sov'reign influence on the minds
Of men. Its columns ever teem with harsh
Details of sexual passion, jealousy,
And murder ; love and suicide, and crimes
Morbidly call'd "romantic." Should the breath
Of scandal whisper an unsullied name,
Or slander vilify ; should weak *faux pas*,
Intrigue, or an elopement be expos'd,
Forthwith, in leading type, the daily press
With coarse embellishment the incidents
Records. Provincial papers soon transmit
The stirring tale, the weeklies follow suit,
In language hyperbolical convey
The narrative throughout the kingdom, till,
Flash'd across continents, it, for a time,
Remains a talk and topic of the world.
With such avidity the nations seek
" Sensational " announcements, jest and gloat
On graphic lewdness and indecency.
The revelations in our courts of law,
Disclosures ascertain'd by magistrates,
Th' investigations of police, and all
Our periodical reports evince

The master passion of the present age
To be, in either sex,—licentiousness.
Mark the advertisements. Their tone appeals
To ev'ry animal and grosser sense.
Amusements? Are they simple, innocent,
Temp'rate and unexciting, or beset
With meretriciousness, carnality,
And imminent defilement? Calmly scan
The journals which most widely circulate
Especial information with regard
To pleasure. How equivocal their style,
Oft in ambiguous cypher dark conceal'd!
Notifications, whether of the stage,
The concert, dancing-room, the newest book,
Art, ornament or costume; also those
Pertaining to deformity, disease,
And *even death*, are craftily conceiv'd
To rouse emotions of lasciviousness.
Is this untrue? Advertisements consult
In *Thunderer and Twaddlegraph*. A play
Is vaunted for indelicacy. Songs
For latitude, the dance for laxity.
Reviews of books are mainly occupied
With love delineations, in a mood
Suggestively provocative; whilst Art
And decoration are address'd to veil
Ingenious improprieties of skill
In china, jewellery, heliographs,
And *articles de luxe* (mere subtlety
Of wickedness). *Outré* description guides
The milliner and manteau maker. Dress

Conventionally-changing forms adopts,
Capriciously, without relationship
To modesty or beauty, from a vain
And emulous desire, ancillary
To indecorum and voluptuousness.
Deformity of body, physical
Infirmity, disease suppos'd and real,
Are openly adverted to in terms
Unquestionably filthy, and arouse
Demoralis'd ideas. Those which err
Most shamelessly are local newspapers,
And those, self-styl'd, of Christian principles,
Which constantly their tainted columns fill
With a farrago of obscenity
And quackery, pestiferous to youth.
Surely the Medical or Campbell's Act
Applies to such abominations? "Yes,
But, as th' Exchequer no advantage reaps
From prosecution, foulest notices
Are freely printed." "Has no censor pow'rs
To intervene and stem this infamy?"
Still death *at least* must be dissociated
From all immoral thought, and levity
Retire in silence? Note the wild accounts
Of murders, inquests, and the rabid thirst
To learn *post-mortem* horrors, and behold
A mutilated corse. Inspect the Morgue
At Paris, or the anatomical
Museüms which pollute our larger towns.
Some few years since, one of the *demi-monde*,
Whilst riding in Hyde Park, was thrown and kill'd.

The body of the poor unfortunate
Was taken to Saint George's Hospital
And plac'd within the mortuary. Men,
Or *gentlemen*, in numbers flock'd to see
The stark *disjecta membra* of the girl.
What was their motive? Curiosity,
To while away the tedium of the day?
Or sympathy? Would they have visited
A male, tho' by most harrowing death destroy'd?

Writers of fact and fiction from their works
Simplicity and soberness exclude,
Aiming by illegitimate effects
At popularity. Can we condemn
Their conduct? Novelists, *to please the age*,
Must study to reflect its manners, save
When gifted with a genius like Scott
Or Lytton, which all time and place defies.
Thus, science and religion are discuss'd
In ev'ry magazine: as thoughtful minds
Are agitated by conflicting views
On matter, force, and spirit. Hence the age
Controls the author, is responsible
For prevalent opinion, and dictates
Its literary *pabulum*. No doubt,
Original and daring souls decline
Its rules and trammels; yet their pens describe
With rare felicity our inner life.
In trenchant language they the truth depict,
Recording, not inventing. Nowadays,
Literature the arts of trade assumes;

It toils to live, and labours not from love.
Therefore, to gain success, the public taste
Must be consulted. Murder, bigamy,
Fraud, forgery, and lewdness form the plots
Of leading novel-writers, who delight
In vitiating themes. They paint the times
In which they live, as units of the scene.
But they are popular ! Then, who's to blame ?
The authors or their readers ? Both, in sooth.
Authors should never pander to the calls
Or cravings of perverted fancy ; whilst
Readers can shun contaminating books
Of fiction, fill'd with ribaldry and slang.
Whate'er the inference, 'tis not denied
That novels *are* corrupt ; whose reading shares
The mental exercise of all our youth.
Writers of travel in the Southern seas,
Amongst the Mormons, in America,
In Africa, and distant isles, compose
A frightful history of human vice.
Revolting in particulars, the fault
Lies in the subject rather than the style
In many instances. But, ne'ertheless,
There is a class of authors who present
Egregiously offensive portraitures,
Florid and circumstantial, which deface
Their pages with a most libidinous
Complexion. Here the peccancy, again,
Is in the authors. Still their volumes charm
Admiring critics of congenial mould ;
Circulate, interest, and ring with praise.

Whilst female novelists, in their contempt
Of modesty and ethics, deeply sin,
They never, like their masculine compeers,
Offend in amatory rhymes obscene.
How must Apollo and the virgin Muse
Erato frown at lyric rhapsodists,
In England, France, America, who dare
Th' Aonian mount to scale, in odious flights
More fervid than Anacreon. From these
Descent is easy to the scribbling horde
Who surfeit Wych Street with a loathsome pile
Of novels, pamphlets, tales, biographies,
And songs so filthy and detestable,
That, even in this unfastidious age,
Effusions so abominable prompt,
At intervals, th' Executive to act.
Convictions may at times such monsters fright,
Tho' most inadequate their sentences
And seldom suffer'd. Shocking photographs,
Indecent prints and pictures swell their trade,
Secret, but lucrative. It forms a grave,
A flaming commentary on the times,
Not only that these scoundrels risk the sale
Of most abhorrent works ; but that a large
And wealthy class disgusting subjects craves,
The most unnatural demanding most.
But, as in sinners there's no vice of which
In saints there's not a trace, so higher art,
If most obnoxious, both in its display
And treatment, is indulgently receiv'd ;
Appearing on the walls of galleries,

Decking shop-windows, illustrating books
 And albums. The judicial mind is vex'd
 To give opinion on designs, affirm'd
 To be of decency within the pale.
 Andromeda disrob'd upon the rock,
 David and Bathsheba, a startled nymph,
 Syrinx and Pan, the wife of Potiphar,
 Pasiphaë in Cretan maze surpris'd,
 The woman taken in adultery,
 Venus, as in the Dulwich Gallery seen,
 And kindred contributions to the arts
 In annual collections are avow'd
 To be permissible, or excellent
 As studies :—and the artist's dubb'd R.A.
 But should an inauspicious rascal chance
 To reproduce the painting, bas-relief
 Or statue, outrag'd justice interferes,
As public morals are in jeopardy,
 And the society which holds its name
 From its endeavours in suppressing vice,
 In prosecution gold enough expends
 To save from peril many an useful life.
 How empty the result ! as purchasers
 And fabricators of the works escape,
 So that their spread's diverted, but uncheck'd.

IV.

THE Stage, whose province is to elevate,
 Refine, and guide, debases and depraves.
 The dramatist (exponent of the age

In which he moves) accepts and represents
The social tone and spirit of his time,
Conceding, with a gross servility,
To popular demand for spectacle,
Licentious dialogue and noxious scenes,
In absence of which stimulants to sense
And passion plays are summarily "damn'd."
Few managers the hardihood possess
To reproduce Shakespearean works, or those
Of standard authors. Hence our British youth
But stunted opportunities obtain
To witness Hamlet, Richard, Falstaff, Lear,
Othello, Julius Cæsar, Romeo,
Shylock, Coriolanus, and Macbeth,—
Unrivall'd masterpieces of our bard.
Neglected, too, remain Ben Jonson, Rowe,
Congreve and Otway, Marlowe, Massinger
And other lights, before whose fulgent beams
The modern drama pales its waning fires.
"Sardanapalus," "Manfred," and "The School
For Scandal" may ephem'ral runs attain,
Bedight with gorgeous tinsel; and the last
(Most admirable play) succeeds the best
From *lack of moral*, which befits the taste
And disposition of the period.
Have we a Burbage, Garrick, Cooke, or Kean,
The house to shake with histrionic rage,
To rouse the mind to virtue, or to swell
The heart with pity? Breathes there actress *now*,
In moods alternate with emotion rapt,
To melt to love, or to deter from vice

With moral force, and educate the crowd ?
Thalia e'en no longer dons the mask,
With light conceits promoting to instruct,
And when the semper-virent Matthews fled
The stage the comic muse her seat resign'd,
Depos'd by mimes unpolish'd and grotesque.

The country of Corneille and Molière
In Zola and in Offenbach delights.
Illicit love, liaison, opera bouffe
The plots and music to its theatres
Alone supply. The Gallic brain is rack'd
To furnish "situations" which infringe
Or contravene the marriage-vow. All rules
Of morals are derided, and a false,
But dazzling, glamour is conferr'd on lust
Depicted under thinly-veil'd disguise
Of fervid sentiment or hapless love.
The *café chantant* charms the *bourgeoisie*
With most inflaming ditties, sung by men
(And women) in vermilion ruddle daub'd ;
And on the confines of the classic fields
Elysian (symbol of Plutonian realms),
The famed Mabilles each night a wanton rout
Presents of saltatory courtesans
Engag'd to give expression to the band.
France, the politest nation in the world,
At orgies more concupiscent connives
Than those of Lupercalian Pan, or those
Of Thyad and of Mænad—frantic nymphs—
Disporting with the satyrs in the groves

Of old Dodona, and Thessalian bow'rs.
LUTETIA, PARIS, City of the Seine,
(Vaunting her glory, magnet of the world,
Attracting strangers from remote Cathay
To rainless Lima) with emphatic tongue
Asserts her ingenuity unique
In gesture, attitude, and motion. There
Th' unbridled—sensual—lech'rous—*Cancan* dims
The wildest rite of Africa or Ind.
Nor Fantee, nor abandon'd Nautch girl, can
Approach this shameless dance's infamous,
Revolting measure. Visit the *Mabille*,
Its most audacious haunt. Upon the stage,
Observe the blushless Schneider 'mid acclaim
Enchanting male and female audiences
Of rank and fashion, by immodest feats
Of posturation ! Less pronounc'd in style,
The *Cancan* (like Sardou's and Dumas' plays)
Crosses the Channel, and on English *boards*
And at the music-halls desires instils
Destructive as the Lamia's cursèd charms.

Adapted from the French, with pruning skill,
Unhealthy pieces flood our theatres,
And in another generation will,—
Unless Charles Reade, Tom Taylor, and correct
Authors the national *morale* improve,—
Assimilate the foreign stage and ours.
Colman and Morton, Tobin and O'Keefe
And Inchbold are forgotten. In their place
“Frou Frou,” “The Magdalen,” and “Clytië”

(Typic examples of the carnal school)
A morbid sympathy with vice inspire.
As monitor no longer serves the stage.
Melpomene abeyant vainly seeks
For Thespian talent, and her sister Muse
Laments the lapse of comedy. No more
The fair and graceful maid Terpsichore
To guide the dance presides. In vilest scenes,
Inciting speeches, daring songs and jigs,
Riot extravaganza and burlesque ;
And in those hybrid products which are not
Or melodrama, comedy, or farce,
The Decalogue is ridicul'd ; home ties,
Domestic joys are scoff'd at ; and the rake,
The ruffian, ruin'd girl, or debauchee,
Is not "to point a moral" introduc'd,
But as the mouthpiece of equivocal
Discourse and innuendo. Fescennine,
But witless, ballads gratify the gods
And groundlings in the stalls. *Double-entendre*
Fillips the jaded playgoer's blunted ear ;
And ballet-girls in costume which affords
The slightest scope to fancy, lithely whirl
In movements most seductively corrupt,
Beneath th' electric light's fictitious gleam.

The music-halls, for evil, exercise
An untold influence, far beyond the stage.
The prices of admission are too small,
At most, to be remunerative. Thus,
Amusement proves subordinate to drink.

The melodies of Dibdin, Moore, or Burns,
 Find no acceptance ; but the coarsest songs,
 The broadest humour, negro minstrelsy,
 And rank travestie greet the muddled brains
 Of visitors, commingled with the sound
 Of *obligato* glasses, pop of corks,
 And shouts of "waiter." The funambulist,
 Athlete, and gymnast specially command
 Applause, whilst sweet Euterpe is contemn'd—
 Unless the flippant strains of Offenbach
 And passages from "Traviata," play'd
 During the blare of drunken voices may
 Be claim'd as music. Public dancing-rooms,
 And gardens (to Priapus dedicate)
 Allure the class which commonly frequent
 The music-hall. Each year the magistrates
 Are much embarrass'd, 'twixt their own respect
 And their connexions, as to licensing *n/*.
 These modern night-houses, the rendezvous
 Of palliard and of cullion ; the resort
 Of harridan, hetaira, punk and drab
 (Ladies of the Suburra, who reside
 'Mid intricate *purlieus* of Leic'ster Square,
 South-west of Knightsbridge, in the rearward
 streets
 Of Cubitopolis, and where the Wood
 Of the Evangelist from Regent's Park
 Stretches tow'rds Finchley). Here such women ply,
 Without control, their scortatory trade,
 Prelusive to the bordel. Mœchus leads
 The train of foul Cotytto, deity

Of putage. Messalina, by champagne
Or gin recruited, aggravates desire.
Bohemian roister, harlot, libertine,
In Saturnalian congress madly join'd,
Provoke their passions, and, with drunkenness
And turbulence obscene, affright the moon.
Meanwhile, in pravity unutt'able,
Sporus, Bathyllus—if reports be true—
As in Athenian times, obscurely skulk,
Abhorrently nefandous, shunn'd by all.

V.

CHANGING the prospect, we discern that Man
And Woman are the same, wherever plac'd.
Standards of pleasure vary, but mankind,
As creatures unavoidably impell'd,
Alike by their sensations—natural
Or cultivated—own its phantom spell.
The war-dance stirs the Indian ; by the brink
Of broad Nyanza, Mumbo-Jumbo droll ;
The dervish and the fakir fanatic
Distortions practise ; lively saraband
The Spaniard, or cachuca ; and ourselves
Lilt, reel, waltz, polka, minuet, quadrille.
At fashionable ball, th' enchanting fair,
Encircled by her partner's arms, prefers
The fascinating waltz (the dance that shock'd
The genial Byron). Her bosom nude
And palpitating, she inflames his soul

With most voluptuous fancies ; in her turn
Erotically agitated. When
The supper, with its bubbling juice, imparts
New animation to the glowing sense,
Restraint grows lax, tho' wary dowagers
Enjoin a coy demeanour. Vehement
Embraces abrogate all thoughts of gold,
Titles and eldest sons ; and modesty,
O'erpower'd, yields to the infectious blight
Of amorous temptation. Quitting ball,
Or rout, the wearied belle, ungratified,
To Grosvenor Square, Westburnia returns,
Belgravia or Kensington, to dream
Confusing recollections of the night
In ardent slumbers.

By the placid Thames,
At Chiswick, Fulham or at Twickenham,
Where fête or garden party draws a crowd,
To while away a summer afternoon,
The languid maid, from yesternight's excess,
Inclin'd to tête-à-tête, with subtle skill
Encounters with surprise, by accident,
Her fav'rite partner—previously arrang'd
By assignation. Spite of parents' hints
Or chaperone's remonstrance, she insists
On gentle salutation, and allows
His escort. By the rippling river's marge,
O'er ices, "Badminton," or tea, they talk
Of love—the love of daylight's sober hours—
Till parted by receding day, to dress

For dinner, concert, opera or ball.
(In manner similar, but lowlier far,
Without finesse, the rude plebeian wench,
At Crystal Palace, Alexandra Park,
Kew Gardens, Rosherville, or Hampton Court,
Basks with her sweetheart in the burning day,
Seeking, with evening's approach, regale
At public bar or decent hostelry.
Franker in nature, or less self-contain'd
Than her more dainty sister, she declares
Her joyous feelings. Whether home convey'd
By steam-boat, train, or van, her tuneful notes,
Re-echoing, make the ambient air resound.)

VI.

BUT human nature, in diversified
And patent guise, most strikingly appears
To the observant critic, in the Park.
What incongruity of age and dress,
Of taste and manners ! What inanity
Of character and style ! and yet how grand
The concourse and effect ! resembling much
A triumph in the days of ancient Rome,
Where glory, splendour and prosperity
Reveal'd the lust of conquest, pride of pow'r,
The pomp of wealth ; with that calamitous
Distress, which glitt'ring pageants cannot hide.
Thus, thro' Saint James's and Saint George's roll
The royal equipage ; the gilded coach

Of duke and lord ; chariot of senator,
 Of bishop, judge ; barouche of haughty dame ;
 Whilst in the sordid cells of Westminster,
 Of Spitalfields and Bethnal Green, there sit
 Women half-famishing in weak attempts
 To earn a living at the grinding work
 Of shirt and waistcoat making ; in the end
 A paragraph affording to the Press
 “ Death from starvation ! ” as a consequence
 Of laws, which they, who sumptuously feed
 In proud Saint George’s and Saint James’s, frame.
 But no compunctious tenderness disturbs
 Those in the park who range. Their motto ’s—
 SELF.

The idle, thoughtless, dissolute and vain,
 Cynical, witty, splenetic and gay,
 Vicious and criminal—the young, the old,
 Gentle and simple, all converge to form
 An egotistic mass, where “ private I
 Too prominently in the public eye
 Appears ” (as Horace Smith defines), but each
 Is too concern’d with Self to mark the rest.
 Amidst the *omnium gatherum* of ranks,
 The principal varieties of men
 To certain types may be reduc’d—the fop,
 The gentleman, the swaggerer, the prig,
 The gent., the scrub, the clown. The misanthrope,
 The humourist, philosopher and wit,
 The author, artist and professional
 ’Twere difficult to classify. But all
 Appear to be rather than are. Each lives

For self alone. Men's consciences are grown
Extenuate. The nation simulates,
Invents, and practises, and worships SHAMS.

The Courtier—hard but polish'd ; elegant,
Aristocratic, riding in the Row,
Walking, or driving by the Serpentine,
By turns seeks pastime, quietude and change.
The legislator, or the minister,
If Democrat or blatant Radical
(A brewer, p'rhaps, or manufacturer),
Has less of breeding and of complaisance
Than mercantile olidity or *tang*,
With which his " lady " shows by upstart airs
Complete accord. The members for the shires
Mostly polite and affable ; but yet
Bucolic brusqueness, rugged dialect,
Or harsh provincial speech, a few bewray.
Of fashion and of gallantry a slave,
The man of pleasure, frivolously dull,
Obtrusively important, utterly
Heartless and useless ; prim'd with idle talk,
Usually redolent of sporting terms
Or racecourse oratory. As a rule,
His voice a drawl, or has affected lisp,
He strokes his beard the while. From habit,
he
Lies like a Cretan, and he swears with zest.
The ancient buck and antiquated beau,
In huge cravat and obsolete attire
Scrupulously formal—as erst prevail'd

When George the Fourth or William fill'd the
throne—

Air their effete and wither'd shapes, assur'd
By arts delusive of the hairdresser
And dentist. Pharmaceutic skill bestows
Civet, nux vomica, cantharides
And phosphorus to spur their ebbing pow'rs
To anile feats of forc'd vivacity.
So dotage mocks decay, and vicious Eld,
By riches pamper'd, shows a venom'd front,
As hideous as the toad of Surinam.
Without embarrassment, the gentleman,
Whate'er his office or vocation be,
Well-bred, at ease ; simple and neat in dress ;
In port and mien subdued and quiet ; choice
In conversation ; in vocabulary
Select and nice. Disreputable cant
Or language of the jockey he abhors ;
And, in an age most lamentably prone
To brag and bombast, such a man redeems
His race, of which, from its brutality
And grossness, he must often be asham'd,
By dignity of manners. Fop and prig
Saunter attiguous, in fanciful
And ludicrous habiliments array'd ;
Bejewell'd and bescented, frizz'd and curl'd,
The mere effigies of man. The gent.
And vulgar scrub, restless, impertinent,
Ne'er taught behaviour's rudiments—to walk ;
Assumptive, over-manner'd, or without
Manners at all. The braggadocio,

Insolent, overbearing, yet restrain'd
By place and circumstances. Lout and clown
In mute bewilderment confounded ; groom
And horsedealer, mechanic, shopkeeper
Jostle the noble, clubbist, epicure,
The gourmet, hanger-on, adventurer,
Quidnunc and priest. But 'tis the female sex—
The Women, who, omnipotent for good
Or evil, make or mar Society,
Appoint its usages and fix the *ton*.

VII.

As Chesterfield, that pseudo-moralist,
Observ'd, the passions twain which sway the sex
Are vanity and love. But love is rare ;
In its more strict and nobler sense has slight
Ascendancy, so vanity (defect
Peculiar) predominance retains
O'er woman's heart. Women are much alike,
Varying most in accidents of birth,
Rank, education, wealth. The flower-girl,
The duchess, barmaid, shop-girl, actress, dame,
Nurse, milliner, domestic, governess
Court admiration, equally intent
Their rivals to outreach and lure the men.
Did any age present so fierce a strife
'Mongst womankind for dress and ornament ?
In part, from arrogant attempt to ape
Their betters (if there any better be

When most are base) ; in part, to aggravate
Their equals by an ostentatious style
And lavish prodigality—the signs
Of vulgar pelf and pettiness ; but most
Of all, the female sex are urg'd to deck
Their frail anatomy from head to heel,
From an absorbing, sensuous design
To dazzle, captivate, and conquer—Man.
Are these the loftiest attributes and aims
Of woman, by the poet's muse extoll'd
The paragon and glory of the world,
Above all other beings grandly dower'd ?
Thus woman *should* be (such an one I know
More precious than a monarch's diadem)—
Of beauty marvellous, and rarest charm ;
Of sweetness feminine, relucant grace ;
Manners most gentle ; affability
Touchingly tender, and a character
Exceeding noble ; with a dignity
And queenly presence claiming courtesy.
Of spirit delicate, of nature loving,
Passionate, humble, sensitively proud ;
Intrepid to the verge of modesty,
Guileless, without a thought or dread of ill ;
Patient in trial, steadfast and content ;
Perfect in ev'ry good, adorable,
Immaculate in womanhood, divine !
But let the unsophisticated youth
Provincial, nurtur'd in a rural home
Or happy vale (if such a youth exist
In this degenerated Age of Clay,

Gen'rous, æsthetic, virtuous, refin'd),
Who dreams of love, of woman's artless grace
And infinite perfection with the joy
Of spring-time, to the capital betake
Himself, and seek his idol in the Park.

What a congeries of features, forms,
Complexions, classes! from the budding miss,
Bright as the asphodel, of noble stock,
To hag of faded frame and torvous front,
Repulsive as Tisiphonè. Each morn,
During the season, England's fairest girls
And matrons—fair as Nature prodigal
Of favours can invest them, and as Art
With most elaborate contrivances
Can tint and heighten beauty—throng the Row.
Within the Ride, from Park Lane, Belgrave Square,
Tyburnia, the Gore, the Cromwell Road
And all the proudest precincts of the West,
Equestrian maidens, dames and dowagers
Display their figures, slim, rotund, and squab,
To peering gallants, captious cavaliers;
In fellowship with actress, Amazon
And Traviata, gather'd from the bounds
Of Fulham, Brompton, Chelsea, Pimlico,
Saint John's Wood and Saint Mary'bone, who vie,
On hack from opportune *manège* procur'd,
With peeresses in horsemanship and mode.
Anon, the wife and daughters of the cit
And thriving shopkeeper from Islington
And Highbury assemble in the Row.

The vulgar ill-bred female, forward minx,
 And unabash'd hetaira ogle man
 In fashion's hippodrome, and justle skirts
 With Lady Bab and Countess Vere de Vere.
 Along the promenade, beneath the limes
 (Whose fragrant anthers oftentimes besprent
 Delightful hours in seasons long-elaps'd),
 A vista of commodious chairs invites
 The lounge. By the tranquil Serpentine,
 Woman asserts her predilective bent ;
 Dress exercises arbitrary sway ;
 Couturière and milliner parade
 Most gorgeous models ; Pingat, Worth, Elise
 Triumphant reign. Amongst the haughtiest dames
 In faultless costume, Buona-Roba glides
 Apparel-privileg'd, on neutral ground,
 Resort alike of *beau et demi-monde*.
 [Save when King Mob at tyrannous behest
 Of demagogue the park's repose invades,
 Around the " People's Oak " devising riot ;
 Eructing treason at the factious bid
 Of agitator, Fenian, Communist
 Assuming popular dictatorship ;
 Or bellowing sedition, as a herd
 Armental, which in olden times had cost
 The scoundrels decollation on a spot
 Call'd Tower Hill, or in the pillory
 Exposure and ablation of their ears.]

Each afternoon gay equipages fill
 The Lady's Mile. Landau, barouche and brougham,

Victoria and sociable convey
A multitudinous and motley group
Of women to their favourite *locale*.
Over the railings loiter idle men,
With whom the sex indulge in trivial chat
And hollow flippancies of dialogue.
Flirtation, surquedry, censoriousness,
And artificiality maintain
Indisputable empire. Titled dames
Woo am'rous colloquy; expressionless
Coquettes their features kindle at advance
Of men, and even prudes forego reserve;
Procacious damsels wilfully defy
Maternal precepts; that is, they ignore
The matrimonial market, and select
For love-making, amusement, or for show,
Some handsome, penniless, Corinthian Raff,
A younger son or personage obscure,
In Government employ on eighty pounds
Per annum—*satis* for cigars and gloves.
Guardsmen and exquisite by charming maid,
Or bride, accompanied, in cabriolet,
With *tiger*, drawn by proudly stepping steed,
Thro' eyeglass indolently scan the crowd.
In stanhope, tilbury, and waggonette,
Ladies of lower grade, with swain or spouse,
Inhale the modish zephyrs. The *lorette*,
Sparkling but naughty, envy and disdain
Of many not more chaste, but much more sly,
In pony phaëton, with tiny groom
On rum provision'd to retard his growth,

Her whip, with fan adorn'd, *insouciant* waves,
A cynosure to those who stare and sneer.

Amongst the tangled press of carriages
The modern Erichthonius guides his team
Freighted with femininity. The girls
Perch'd on the drag from giddy height survey
The prospect, half audacious, half afraid,
Hateful to all of female kind below.
'Twere hopeless adequately to depict
Fashion's fantastic minions. Ev'ry art
And subterfuge by woman are conceiv'd
Her natural endowments to disguise.
Dress or for *comfort* or for *comeliness*
Is rarely chosen, but extravagance
And ornament are studied, to excite
Passion far more than homage. Taffeta
And purpled samite curiously beprank'd
On noble women, find similitude
Of pattern in each hussy's grogram gown.
The handmaid imitates her mistress' air,
Her manners, walk and gesture; e'en adopts
Her aids to beauty. Breeding, birth and wit
Are disregarded, but vulgarity
The void supplies. Grace, softness, modesty,
A gentle voice—most excellent in woman—
Give place to rudeness or exuberance.
The earth is ransack'd to surround the sex
With adscititious charms. From peasants' scalp,
O'er continental Europe, from the back
Of ruminant and even from the tomb,

Advent'rous higglers ruthlessly collect
Albinous, fulvous, rufous, fuscous locks
And atramental, to adorn the heads
Of Englishwomen. Malkin and princess
The gnarlèd chignon's artificial wreath
Append in common, mostly populous
With microscopic life. Of the Gaboon
The sable virgins (Captain Burton tells),
In emulation of their sisterhood
In Britain, also decorate their skulls
With huge coiffures. The Hindoo Yogies, too,
Would cause, if travellers' reports be true,—
In competition with our London *belles*,
The latter marvellous chagrin. But, no ;
Barbarian frisettes and idols' polls
In anthropologists may strike surprise,
Tho' not concern the fashionable world.
Subtle inventions of recondite kind
Projecting from the female nether spine
Embellishment are deem'd. The Hottentot,
Whose steatopygous abnormity
Amazes nat'ralists, would fain dispense
With such enlargement, but the savage mind
Cannot, of course, affect polite ideas.
Cosmetics, unguents, washes, pigments, dyes,
Depilatories, scents monopolise
The greater part of many females' life.
Hair, skin, teeth, eyes, lips, nails, nose, eyebrows,
ears,
Hands, figure, feet, deportment are assign'd
To each "professor." The perruquier

(Insidious varlet) womankind beguiles
With artful tresses, ringlets, plaits and tufts,
In counterfeited semblance of her own.
With world-renown'd restorers, auroline
And lotions, he her fading hair transforms ;
Whilst frumpish SAGANA, completely bald
Encompasses her noddle in a wig ;
And all the fair from maidenhood to age
Anoint their *pericrania* with pomade
Divine, macassar, oil of theobrome,
The grease of bear and viscous bandoline.
RACHEL compounds inimitable shades
Of loveliness ; from roseate blush of youth
Semi-pellucid, to the warmer hues
Of well-preserv'd maturity. The maid,
Sickly or saturnine, at magic touch
Of the enamellist, in damask blooms
“ For ever beautiful.” The wrinkled dame
A compromise accepts, content to feign
“ Fat, fair, and forty.” Specious kalydors,
Metallic powders, opaline, carmine
So truly surreptitious charms impart,
That men, by admiration blinded, gaze,
Mistaking beauty and its substitutes.
Odontos, dentifrices, floriline
Assist the teeth and breath. How fugitive,
Alas, their virtue ! So the dentist's skill
Is ever needed, either to repair
Transgressing molar, or to extirpate
Offending fang, of dolorous decay
The seat ; in later life, to renovate

The jaw edentulous with plastic horn
 Of elephant, or hippopotamus ;
 So few their complement of teeth possess
 That most the debt of death have partly paid !
 Eyes are with belladonna lustrous ; lips
 With alkanet, vermilion, cherry-paste.
 Nails fil'd and tinted ; nose, by a machine,
 Coerc'd to Grecian ; eyebrows pencill'd ; ears
 Pierc'd for *recherché* trinkets ; hands with soaps
 Emollient chasten'd, blanch'd with amandine,
 And jauntily beglov'd. The swelling *bust*
 By firm corset controll'd, the meagre shape
 Appropriately padded ; feet encas'd
 In boots, a wonder of Parisian craft,
 With pedestals for heels. The sex, beside
 All these enticements, occupies a band
 Of orthopœdists, quacks, chiropodists,
 Teachers of calisthenics, jewellers,
 Vendors of perfumes, *articles de luxe*,
 Mechanical devices, balsams, drugs,
 Troches and medicaments. Thus fortified,
 'Mid show'rs of Frangipanni and Cologne,
 Woman in panoply superbly moves,
 Invulnerably arm'd, and with a glance
 Discomfits and enslaves the recreant—Man.

VIII.

THE season's social sinuosities
 Shall I at length review ? At opera,

(Aristocratic) woman drap'd in lace
And finest woof, thro' the transparent folds
Of which her heaving bosom is far more
Than faintly evident, luxurious thoughts
Arouses. Radiant in carcanet
Of diamonds, of widely whisper'd fame,
(By Californian matron scarce surpass'd),
Resplendent in hereditary gems—
Pearls, sapphires, rubies, emeralds, a sard,
A scarabæus or intaglio
From Theban, Cypriote or Argive crypt
Or old Pompeii exhum'd—she shines
A glorious Bacchante, whilst the strains
Of *Traviata* or *Don Juan* waft
Delicious melody.—Amongst the groups,
In placid haughtiness, the Jewess sits,
Dazzling with brilliant eyes and precious stones.
Throughout “the house,” in box and stall dispers'd,
The wives and daughters of commercial men
And prosp'rous tradesmen, glitter in the pride
Of collet, bracelet, locket of machine-
Made jewelry (excruciating gauds);
Joy of plebeian wealth, the *nouvelles-riches*,
And certain index of vulgarity :
Such as in largest cities much prevails,
Prevails exclusively, when affluence,
In absence of nobility, directs
The public taste, and gold is all in all.
In showy contrast, pinchbeck bauble vile,
From Palais Royal or from Birmingham,
The gewgaw of the seaside lapidary,

Worthless oroide and aluminium ware
 Glimm'ring with *paste*, the *parvenue* proclaim.
 Here false CANIDIA, sparkling with the gifts
 Of hoar infatuation, smiles unblench'd.
 The times have chang'd since fair LUCRETIA,
 OCTAVIA, SEMPRONIA were held
 Mirrors of chastity, to counterpoise
 Deprav'd ANONYMA. . . . Beneath the grand
 And crowded vestibule, the throng bizarre
 Awaits the "linkman," whose stentorian cry,
 By rabble echo'd (GOLDSMITH'S *bloods* and
 drabs),
 Summons th' imperial equipage, the cab
 Repulsive, ducal carriage, sociable
 Of extra-urban flyman, and all sorts
 And kinds vehicular. As midnight tolls
 From turret of the Covent-Garden clock,
 Phantasmagoria-like the vision fades,
 And darkness with her mantle supersedes
 Gas, music, beauty, opulence and sin.

IX.

IN practice train'd and coach'd on chilly Thames,
 'Gainst wind, rain, hail, sleet, surf and rough'ning
 tide,
 Each year, upon a vernal Saturday,
 The Oxford and the Cambridge crews contend.
 Despite diurnal comment of the press

Narrating "feather," "stroke," "swing," "form,"
and "dip,"

How hollow the concern in the result,
Beyond the Academic round, display'd!
Posted at Tattersall's, the betting man
Exhibits spurious int'rest in the race,
Wag'ring with fever'd callousness his gold
Now on a quadruped he never saw,
Now on a band of men he never knew.
The sporting and the extra-sporting world
Muster in thousands by the towing-path
From Putney trending Mortlakewards. Across
The stream, amongst the osiers, on the flats
That skirt the river, structures perilous
Of improvis'd erection tempt the crowd
Against their curiosity to risk
Their necks. On Barnes's shore a crushing throng
Pedestrian, in carriage, cab, cart, van,
From bulk, stall, window, housetop, stretch to view
The champions of the Isis and the Cam
In chivalrous endeavour. Launches, tugs,
Steamers and barges occupy the course
In pack'd profusion. Near the aqueduct,
The starter signals to the rival crews,
And 'mid a roar of voices, dash of oars,
The boats drive swiftly forward. Oxford leads,
Pulling with steady and methodic stroke.
Abreast of Craven Cottage Cambridge gains
On her opponent, and in Crab Tree Reach
Is level with her fellow. Oxford shows
Unsteady rowing, and at Hammersmith

Cambridge augments her lead. At Chiswick Eyot
 Oxford regains advantage by a spurt,
 The two drawn close together. In Corney Reach,
 Oxford the foremost place resumes. Beneath
 The Bridge at Barnes, Oxford advances clear
 Of Cambridge. Threaten'd by an errant skiff,
 The coxswains happily avert a foul.
 Near the White Hart, Cambridge her pace im-
 proves

And, at the Brewery, the panting crews,
 In splendid style, responding to hurrahs,
 With brilliant finish pass the winning-post
 Alongside, strictly level—*A dead heat!*
 Bettors are baulk'd and blacklegs all dismay'd.
 Vermin who speculate on gallant strength,
 The noble pride of prowess and of skill :
 Deeming this glorious strain for victory
 A “mere event,” for their behoof decreed ;
 Much as the Belgian peasant Hugo paints,
 Who in the tourist's ear sardonic whines :
 “Ah, donnez-moi trois francs, Monsieur, je vous
 Expliquerai la chose de Waterloo !”

X.

TH' Academy attracts eclectic crowds
 To criticise, to cavil and admire.
 Here females of a sentimental cast,
 Religious devotees, and faded maids
 Consume the golden hours. Bettwys-y-Coed,

Lynton, the Giants' Causeway, Kynance Cove,
 The Jungfrau, Alum Bay—the hackney'd stock
 Of all who wield the brush—afford delight
 Enthusiastic. Country cousins bend
 With ecstasy before Pre-Raphaelite
 Examples ; as a ruddy raw-bon'd dame
 A milk-white goat caressing in a mead ;
 Or limp, exsanguious girl, in amber drap'd,
 With countenance distraught, who vacant glides
 Across a moorland, fleck'd with clouds of green
 And russet pigment. Wondrous tints of flesh,
 In nature ne'er perceiv'd, untutor'd tastes
 Perplex, and startling studies from the “nude”
 Infringe each anatomic grace and form.
 Prepost'rous sunsets, where a cupreous orb,
 With Turner-esque bravado, sinks in mist,
 And “Pensive Maidens,” “Morning,” “Hope de-
 ferr'd,”

In nebulous morbidity express
 Imagination's flights and Fancy's aims.
 Pictures, not portraits, courtly artists paint ;
 And those they feign to represent are known
 By questionable eminence, or are
 Contemptibly obscure. A draper's wife,
 A sheriff (from Cheapside), an alderman,
 The chairman of a company depend
 From choice positions, when the man of science
 Hangs on the skyline. Critics of the arts,
 Whose judgment shifts with ev'ry new caprice,
 The populace mislead, and rule the Press
 By self-assertive claptrap—sweetness, tone,

Harmony, softness, warmth, transparency,
Mellowness, colour, feeling, distance, breadth,
Finish, technique, fidelity and force.

Forbid, by brevity, to linger o'er
The French and other galleries, I pass
To Flower-shows. Let those of Kensington
And Regent's Park suffice. Exclude the mob,
The carriages, the riders, and the noise,
And introduce the tents, the band and plants,
They differ little from the Park, beyond
The presence of a troop of gardeners,
Fellows, by fees, of the Botanical
And Horticultural Societies !

To Lillie Bridge athletics lure the town.
Polo, the rink, pedestrian exercise
And rougher pastimes beckon multitudes,
Without respect to caste, of ev'ry grade.
But PRINCE'S makes amends (exclusive soil).
Its compass no plebeian eyes invade,
Participant, to watch the noble play
At racquet or at cricket of the " set "
Society embraces. Undisturb'd,
Girls (*who have been presented*) on its rink
Gyrate artistic curves in rare chapeaux,
Exactest costumes ; whilst the *gentlemen*
" Spread eagles " cutting, or a " double rose,"
In sober garments o'er its concrete skim.

XI.

HERALDED by public advertisement,
By railway notice, placard, poster, bill,
By Parliament-adjournment, by discourse
On nought but horses, jockeys, bets and “odds,”
The races stir the town. On Epsom slopes,
Famous for hippic contests, and for “salts;”
On Ascot Heath where Royalty attends
In state; on Molesey Hurst’s obscurer plain;
At Kingsbury’s notorious gatherings,
The terror of its neighbourhood, and curse;
And, later, on exclusive Goodwood’s sward,
Near to the scenes of boyhood where I rov’d
In joyousness on Sussex’ splendid downs,
Innumerable crowds collect to see
A noble horse, goaded by whip and steel,—
Over the distance of a thousand yards,
A mile or more,—antagonists surpass
And win by half a length or half a head.
’Twere prolix to discriminate between
The various “events”; the qualities
Of Doncaster, Newmarket, Liverpool
And other “meetings.” I select the chief,
The most important in the calendar
To racing men, and representative
Of English *tastes* and *sport*—the Derby Day.
As rolls a narrow flood from mountain “force,”
With tributary rivulets and streams
In broader currents to a mighty lake

Or sea convergent, so thro' strait defile
Of Houndsditch, Seven Dials, wider track
Of Grosv'nor Place, Whitehall, and avenue
Wherever pervious, endless multitudes
Advance by Chelsea, Vauxhall, Westminster,
Blackfriars, Waterloo, and London Bridge,
To EPSOM. Four-in-hand, mail phaëton,
Break, dogcart, hansom, omnibus and van,
And ev'ry article from liv'ry yard
That moves on wheels, duple or quadruple,
Are charter'd for the day. Postilions spruce
Propel their "leaders," hazarding the cart
Of huckster, the dilapidated truck
And barrow of the costermonger. Sun
And dust, and pleasure oft (like misery)
Make us familiar with acquaintance strange.
Noble and outcast, gentleman and scamp,
With wife or mistress, drawn by prancing bays,
The sorriest jade or patient ass, exchange
Innoxious rail'ry, not morose, as aft
When drunkenness and loss succeed the race.
By Kennington and Clapham, Brixton Rise,
Streatham and Wandsworth, Balham, Thornton
Heath,
Croydon, Carshalton, Sutton, Ewell, Cheam,
The course is reach'd. As they ascend the hill,
Self-constituted grooms the road obstruct,
Seizing the horses' heads. With wisps of straw
And "effervescent noise," as Dickens speaks,
The foaming quadrupeds they briskly rub
And, proff'ring water, challenge recompense ;

Whilst lower breeds of horse-flesh, donkey, mule,
A score of brutal men compell'd to drag
Under the merciless encouragement
Of thong and bludgeon, strive—oft strive in vain—
Harass'd and panting, to attain the Downs.
More prompt meantime the railway disembogues
A vast contingent, which the provinces
In part subscribe. Light-finger'd characters
This mode of travel to their purposes
As most propitious usually select.
In mingled turmoil the pedestrian swarm
And vehicles o'er ridge and down press on,
Expanding with unbounded overflow,
On ev'ry side a flush'd and countless host.
Who can present the scene? Pencil of FRITH
An incident may paint, but who shall grasp
The panorama? Such a confluence
Of human and inhuman kind, methinks,
I ne'er save once beheld—a gloomy day
In dull November, eighteen-fifty-two,
When England solemniz'd the obsequies
Of WELLINGTON, in mood how different,
Ennobled to a sense of the sublime!
But to our subject. Sporting pers'nages
Inspect the paddock with mysterious ken
Prior to "bus'ness." Further "odds" are laid,
A race or two determin'd. "Clear the course"
Once more resounds; intense excitement thrills
The surging crowd, th' engrossing spectacle
Impendent. Dusty masses of police
The living throng behind the rails repress,

All but th' inevitable, proverbial dog
Hither and thither rushing from the yells
Of blackleg and *bezonian*. Numberless
Sharpers and cullies, rascals, tricksters, dupes
Wager ill-gotten gold. The deaf'ning shrieks
Of betting men offend fastidious ears
With horrid jargon. Girt with ample bag,
"John Dowse of York" inscrib'd, a welsher shouts
Impracticable odds ! The credulous
The bait accept, and freely stake their cash
Against a dummy. Should their fav'rite win,
The scoundrel shifts his site, or pleads the loss
Of all his funds, and inability
To meet their claims—a common argument
With "backers" more esteem'd. To call them more
Respectable, tow'rds any of the class
Would be absurd. The wretch recalcitrant
Pays sometimes dearly for his cozenage.
A savage crew, by vengeful ire impell'd,
Assault th' impostor ; buffeted and chas'd,
Coat, wallet, waistcoat, hat, tie, braces, shirt
Are rent to tatters ; throttled and exhaust,
The breathless victim stands at bay, to sink
Mangled and bleeding, fractur'd or contus'd
By worthless ruffians more incorrigible
Than him they murd'rously despise and strip
With hell-hound fury. Gradually a lull
Ensues. The horses saddled, jockeys weigh'd,
Tentative canters fascinate the mob.
Arrang'd before the winning post, the "field"
A start essay ; attended with success

After repeated trial, at length—They're off!
Eager, yet hush'd, the multitude survey
Horses and riders, fleeter than the wind,
From ev'ry vantage ground, with naked eye
And race glass (how momentous the result
To some!) Another minute. They approach
The Corner. Sunder'd or compact in form,
With muscles strain'd, to lightning swiftness fir'd,
Nostrils dilated, quiv'ring, gory flanks,
And silken jackets flutt'ring in the breeze,
The hum of men, the rhythmic throbbing sod
And murm'ring welkin, neck to neck they flash
Aslant the goal. . . . The winner is declar'd,
And one more Derby reckon'd with the past.
What a *coup-d'œil* from yonder hill! The Stand
Cramm'd with the Jockey Club and racing men
Of every degree; all gentlemen,
Of course, from social, intellectual,
And moral points of view. Prince, duke, and lord,
Soldier and legislator. Women, too,
In violent excess of millin'ry,
Competing with their rivals. Public men,
Professionals, M.P.s, the fourth estate,
Artist, financier, and all who claim
The privilege of payment. On the drags,
In carriages, carts, coaches, and afoot,
A sea of heads, to irresistible
Commotion stirr'd—by call of appetite,
Sways in the distance. All conditions, grades,
And orders seek refreshment. Let us join
The people and more narrowly observe

The uncouth exhibition. Smartest grooms
Unpack the bursting hampers—from Morel
Or Fortnum and *his* Mason. Corks explode
From tepid hock, moselle, and burgundy,
Seltzer, apollinaris. Gelid “cup,”
Flows with refreshing bounty. Richest cates,
Only in French pronounceable, appeal
To listless palates. Starving Lazarus
Picks up the lobster pâté and the shreds
With enviable gusto—such a treat
To pristine impecunious Israël
Unknown. A woman with a brow of brass,
And imbecile companion, paramours,
In gaudy equipage with pair of greys,
Of brandy deeply drink. The gipsy tribe,
Astute philosophers who bivouac
Sub Jove, and improve deficiency
Of learning by a callid sapience
And natural sagacity, regard
Such persons as fit quarry. Whilst the man,
In language of the footpad, vents a curse,
The woman hearkens superstitiously
To vagrant Oriental, who expounds,
In sycophantic, half-contemptuous tone
The future. Boist’rous clerks from Camden Town,
Peckham, the Grove of Camberwell, Wood Green,
And shabby districts, seated on a “bus,”
A milder banquet of pork-pie devour, [reliev’d,
Ham, beef and bread; by cheap champagne
Or bitter beer. The solitary man
Releases from his satchel or a pouch,

In old brown paper providently wrapp'd,
 A modicum of sandwiches, and pours,
 At intervals, a liquid down his throat
 From latent pocket-pistol. Publicans
 (A genus most inexplicably link'd
 With racing) their employment indicate
 By their abundance and desire of drink.
 Author, reporter, doctor, barrister,
 And *parson* seek their hospitable friends
 In quest of luncheon. In default, they munch
 A frugal biscuit, moisten'd with a gulp
 Of sherry. Shopman, shoeblack, vagabond,
 Swell-mobsman, beggar, ragamuffin, "cabby,"
 To tent and booth repair, and from "galore"
 Of gin and ginger-beer (adult'rate draughts),
 Diluted Bass and Allsopp, meeker brews;
 Gingerbread, bak'd potatoes, doubtful cake,
 Cold meat and sausages of mummified
 Variety and darkest composition,
 Derive a gastric pleasure scarce conceiv'd
 By bloated gourmands, quaffing cups (to *those*)
 More nectarous than Massic or Falern.

As interludes, across the landscape drawn,
 A canvas barrier rises. Rang'd in front,
 Rods perpendicular in bags of earth
 Inserted, and with paltry pincushions,
 Toys, cocoa-nuts, and trifles crown'd, cajole
 Empiric youth the ligneous shaft to hurl
 In playful jaculation. Brawny rogues
 (Proprietors) the brief refrain recite

Of "Three a penny"; and their sturdy dames
Propinquous, more ambitious marksmen tempt
Superfluous energy to dissipate
At old "Aunt Sally." On a stool, hard by,
A heated, semi-livid, raving cheat
Tenders gold chains—only one shilling each,
In order to decide a bet between
Two noblemen, whether his humble self
"One hundred in an hour can sell." Beyond,
Confed'rate knaves a purse and two half-crowns
For sixpence offer. More remote, a brace
Of shufflers with the "card-trick" victimise
Their fellow-bipeds. Masters of the art
Follow the noble game of thimblurig
With cautious boldness, ever and anon
The devious manœuvres of police
Regarding with disquiet. Pugilists
Herculean feats perform. Photographers
Ply busily with reproductive skill
At cheapest prices. Ethiopians
With raciest catches, most original,
Not over-squeamish auditors enchant,
Elated by the glare, the dust, the din,
And alcoholic fluids.

Day declines ;

The races terminate. By road and rail
Mankind and womankind their route retrace.
Pack'd hugger-mugger in a third-class train,
Clusters of blackguards, cadgers, swindlers,
thieves,
Are homeward borne, to various crime dispos'd,

According to their state of drunkenness
And gains. So ev'ry humour rages. Some
The coarsest snatches of Whitechapel troll ;
Others inclin'd to quarrel, or to jest
Derisive, their associates beard with taunts
Superlatively vicious. Hustlers fleece
The greenhorn and the stranger. Pickpockets
Intimidate the nervous. Insolence,
Invective, imprecations, *des mots bas*,
Vex the officials. As debauchery
And truculence in hideous riot wax,
The engine stops, and seething villany,
Ripe for disturbance, inundates the town.

The exploits of the road complete the day.
Dissolute manhood and uproarious youth
Premeditated war declare, and wage
Promiscuous battle on the journey home.
Valorous bands, with bags of flour equipp'd,
Pulverulently skirmish, blinding eyes
And spoiling garments. More redoubtable
Combatants squirt and pea-shooter direct,
With swift precision, as companions whirl
The grating rattle. Shrill-tongued amazons,
Squeaking of penny-trumpets, blasphemy,
Oaths, scoffing, roaring and buffoonery,
Blend in accursèd discord. Dastards fling,
At homicidal peril, random show'rs
Of diabolic missiles—lemonade
And soda-water bottles, tumblers, stones.
Nor Carnival, nor other revel-rout

Throughout the length and breadth of Christendom
Can match this annual English holiday !
Let us forbear, as hours crepuscular
In night are merg'd, to follow the career
At public haunts, by special licence open
Till three A.M., where wearied libertines
Recklessly graduate in heinousness
For Newgate and the Sessions. In support
Peruse the papers—and deplore the age.

XII.

To Richmond for a lunch or déjeuner,
Oft in the season, plotting dowagers,
Designing mothers institute a trip.
At the behest of an imperious dame
Not over-scrupulous, nor over-chaste,
Men are delighted, or induc'd, to bring
Their carriages, their sisters and their aunts
To form a party. In the dull retreats
By Sloane Street, gloomy South Belgravian nooks,
Or quarters more pretentious that abut
On Park and Piccadilly, people meet,
Diversely similar, for common aim—
Enjoyment. With dissimulation suave,
The hostess pairs her company ; allots
That lady to this gentleman ; appoints
The *chaperones* judiciously to wink
At ogling and flirtation. Thus arrang'd,
The cavalcade winds westward in the blaze

Of Phœbus, mindless of the toils and cares
 Of ordinary life. The Brompton Road
 And Walham Green, Fulham and Putney Bridge,
 Or Kensington and Hammersmith, conduct
 The wayfarers to Wimbledon or Barnes. [Park—
 Onwards, Roehampton, Sheen, and Richmond
 Whose vital air awakes each sensuous joy—
 A drive affords, which e'en the worldling moves
 To notes of praise. The "Star and Garter" gain'd,
 Some paddle on the river; some repair
 To glades umbrageous 'midst oak and brake,
 Where *Erycina ridens* holds a court,
 Off'ring a Watteau-like seductive scene
 Of maids and matrons dext'rously engag'd
 In ev'ry practis'd wile and feint of love.
 Naughtiness, falsehood, boldness, blandishment,
 And affectation hover round the group
 By road, in park, at banquet and on Thames;
 More daringly reveal'd as they return
 Exhilarate from flow of gen'rous wine
 And dialogue familiar. Ere they part,
 With pulses quicken'd and more mobile nerves,
 Few of Eve's daughters but are wildly stirr'd
 To matrimonial plots or worse intrigue.

Th' æstival solstice reigns. Luxuriant meads
 ('Bove which the lav'rock trills his joyous lay)
 Bord'ring the Upper Thames at Shepperton,
 Henley and Maidenhead, by bands are trod
 Of frolic girls and oarsmen in pursuit
 Of boating and regattas. River scenes

And pleasures in the golden summer sun
By sin are less infected than are most
Of man's enjoyments. Gig, outrigger, skiff
Float on the limpid waters faintly fann'd
By zephyrs most delicious, to impart
A dolce far niente how intense !

How far surpassing idleness terrene,
When vacant youth, in soul debas'd, exhales
The acrid vapour of the fumid weed,
By ev'ry brute, except the human, shunn'd !

A bevy of fair women, stalwart men,
And twice five thousand of the idle world,
At LORD's assemble in July to view,
In strenuous rivalry at cricket match'd,
Eton and Harrow. Vehicles diverse
From drags to cabs, in files innumeros,
The sightseers convey, who less desire
To see than to be seen. How dense the rush
If genial skies befriend, how faint (with most)
The pleasure, and their knowledge of the game.
Harrow, regarded with a partial eye,
Winning the toss, the wickets first secures.
The crowded field exhorts in turn with shouts
Or counter-shouts, as splendid batters drive
Or fielders scout with skill. A "wide" is scor'd,
A player caught at "point." A fine leg hit
Is much applauded, but attention flags
With uneventful "overs," till champagne
Unstinted foams at luncheon to create
A pic-nic joyance. Vig'rous hits—eight "fours,"

Five "threes," four "twos," or total fifty-five—
 Are by the "dark blue" captain made, whose "bail"
 At last is neatly taken. Rapid scores
 Continue, which necessitate a change
 Of bowlers, but the batting is superb,
 The fielding moderate. Now wickets fall
 More quickly, drawing cheers vociferous
 From Eton. One is caught, another bowl'd,
 A third run out, till sinks the final stump
 Amidst the feeble plaudits of the crowd.
Ex uno disce omnes; nor protract,
 With repetition of the morrow's play,
 The feats of Eton, duly chronicled
 In sporting papers during twenty years.

XIII.

THE Sabbath yields no quiet. Pleasure gains
 Admittance to the "Zoological"
 By ticket or election: and the world
 Of fashion, letters, art and science meets
 To promenade its lawn and see the "Lions."
 As once obtain'd at Bedlam, *ladies* smile,
 Amus'd, at captives chafing in their cage—
 Divergent offspring of progenitors
 Whence they themselves have sprung? Affinity,
 On superficial view, seems slight between
 These men and women, rob'd in furs and wool,
 And those ferocious creatures which retain
 The lit'ral garb of nature; but survey,

Without conceit, the human and the brute
Creation. Yonder dandy, tho' erect,
Betrays his simian ancestry. In some,
We trace the treacherous, remorseless eye
Of tiger and hyæna. Others show
The features of the wolf, the jackal, bear,
Or panther; the unwieldy awkwardness
Of bison or rhinoceros; the stealth
Of venom'd cobra, subtlety of fox,
Rapacity of vulture, sheepishness
Of ruminant, the clam'rous chattering
And vanity of parrot and macaw;
Whilst envy, hatred, malice, lust, deceit,
Jealousy, avarice, hypocrisy,
Ingratitude, revenge and cruelty
Are more pronounc'd in man than beast. Besides,
VILE SUPERSTITIONS, GROSS IDOLATRY,
BELIEF IN ODIC FORCE, THOUGHT-READING SLEIGHT,
WITH SPIRITUALISTIC CREEDS AND CLAIMS
Below the standard of the animal
Debase mankind. Redeeming qualities—
Affection for their young, love, tenderness,
Devotion, courage, patience, industry,
Honesty, wisdom, truth, sagacity
And *temperance* distinguish num'rous tribes
Of insects, birds and mammals. Parallel
Between the *lords of earth* and lower forms
Of sentient being oft conduces not
To glorify the former. Who can doubt
Th' identity of passions in the brute
And man? which passions may persist or fade,

Or reappear when fierce emotion fires
 The higher brain. Is human nervous force
 From that of animals inferior
 Distinct? Assume not hastily; accept
Facts, not *opinions*; analyse the truths
 Of science; Darwin, Huxley, Haeckel search;
 Instructed that a microscopic slice
 Of brain, from man, the monkey, or the sheep,
 Is undistinguishable with highest pow'rs.
 Interrogate geology. Pursue
 The gradual evolution of all forms,
 Floral and faunal. Estimate the time,
 By present laws and changes, which elaps'd
 To raise stupendous tiers of rocks whose beds
 The earth encrust. Th' ascending series mark
 Of plants and animals, from simplest cell
 Of *infusorium* to fossil proofs
 Of cave-men and the dwellers by the lakes,
 Tracking as far as records will permit
 The intervening links. Observe the slight,
 But ever-unstable, varieties,
 Divergences, and grades transitional
 Of "species," by philosophers defin'd
 (But not by Nature) as unchanging; note
 The first appearance and development
 Of complex organs, as the eye, the ear,
 The heart, the brain and nervous system. Weigh
 The revelations of comparative
 Anatomy and foetal life. Regard
 The presence, structure, meaning (uselessness)
 Of rudimentary organs; recognise

The irrefutably attested *facts*
Of natural selection, sexual choice;
Of "Adaptation" and "Inheritance,"
Which calmly plead with overwhelming force
The doctrine of Pangenesis. 'Tis striv'n
On ev'ry other theory *in vain*
By the most fertile and ingenious minds
To reconcile, interpret, or conceive
The scheme organic, or to harmonise
Recent and palæontologic life.
In alter'd terms, the argument stands thus—
In an eternal course of fate and law,
All forms of life, successive, mutable,
Dissolve, become remoulded. With the lapse
Of time immense, by transmutation slow,
Species from "filiation" or "descent,"—
From automatic appetite, combin'd
With cosmic agencies unceasingly
Exerted—imperceptibly progress;
'The tiny monad (protoplasmic speck)
Thro' grades marine, cold-blooded saurian shapes,
Warm-blooded vertebrate and frightful phase
Of anthropoid and troglodyte to Man:
Whose instincts, habits, passions, sentiments,
Crimes, physiognomy, anatomy
And functions—in a word, biology—
Reflecting derivation thro' a vast
Continuous series of organic types
His heirdom from a primal cell proclaim.

XIV.

HURLINGHAM tempts a fashionable train
Of men and women to behold a *corps*
Of doughty marksmen, warranted to slay
(Glorious achievement) pigeons by the score,
Flying at twenty yards, with certainty
Almost unerring. [POLO, too, decoys
A band of noble cavaliers, who poise
Their pretty figures on their ponies' backs
In attitudes which captivate the fair.]
Women, in childhood taught the gracious text
"Blest are the merciful," unpitying smile,
Whilst flights of doves, butcher'd in (so-call'd)
sport,
Incarnadine a glorious summer day.
Cruelty ! hellish fiend, in blood imbrued
From ceaseless slaughter, with unsated maw
Pangs all creation. What mysterious law,
Or purpose, is subserv'd by murder, death,
Sin, pain, care, sorrow ? Are they opposites,
Or antitypes, by will supreme ordain'd
To render more intense the counter joys
Of peace, health, purity, content and love,
Which otherwise might vapid prove or cloy
From lack of contrast ? or do faculties
Conflicting sway the universe, and strive
For mastery—one kindly, one malign ?
From interest and pleasure man inflicts
Anguish and carnage on the living world,

Over all which he *claims* to be the lord.
Carnivorously brutal, from his lust
Of flesh he immolates the flocks and herds
On ev'ry continent, compassing plain,
Steppe, prairie, pampa, and remotest waste
To kill for food, or torture in the chace,
Milliards of browsing occupants, *affirm'd*
(With sophistry Satanic) to exist
Solely to gratify his glutt'nous needs.
The rabid anti-vivisectionist,
Who fiendishly denounces all attempt
At animal experiment to gain
Insight of Nature's secrets and employ
Such knowledge in relief of suff'ring man,
Is vilely, despicably traitorous
To his asserted principles. Not I
Shall justify the physiologist,
Cowardly-craven, purposeless, unmov'd,
Who, waiving anæsthetic aids, may dare
To writhe the quiv'ring forms of sentient life
With mutilations horribly devis'd :
By section of the brain, the cord and nerves,
Or ligature of artery and vein;
Or by injection toxic thro' the blood,
With most pernicious venom to convulse
In spastic throes, or in distress'd collapse
To agonise till freed by ling'ring death.
But they who execrate Magendie, Schiff,
And those inferior monsters who aspire
To dabble in this sanguinary pool
Of science, by inoculating dogs,

Pigeons and guinea-pigs with "tubercle,"
To weave fallacious theories, are scarce
Less ruthless than the miscreants they revile.
For instance,—women, sporting men, divines,
Editors, lawyers, statesmen league together
In wild crusade against the advocates
Of vivisection; not with guiltless hands.
The mincing girl, who swoons at sight of blood,
With terror shrieks at earwig, spider, wasp,
And o'er a novel melts at fancied woe,
A massacre will calmly contemplate
Of birds in pastime, swallow oysters raw,
And gloat on lobsters slowly boil'd alive;
Yet she with horror at the acts recoils
Of dusky Del Fuegian maid who crams
A living whiting down her barb'rous throat
And battens on the gory viscera
Of goat and sheep, from casual ship purloin'd.
In each, innate, the cruel instinct dwells,
But education varies appetite,
As nations in the culinary art
From ignorance to nicest culture range.
Against infesting vermin matrons war.
Rats, mice, and cockroaches, by subtle baits
In trap entic'd are mercilessly doom'd
To violent death; of which recountment bare
Would shock the gentle mind. Live eels are skinn'd,
Prawns boil'd in kettles; cockles, mussels, whelks
In caldrons steam'd; fowls by the neck are wrung
Or pluck'd ere death. The housewife issues forth
From butcher, poulterer, and fishmonger,

To purchase creatures that have throbb'd with life,
Destroy'd and garnish'd with the bitt'rest skill
To pamper human stomachs. Land, sea, air
Contribute hosts innumerably vast
Of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and the class
Invertebrate to gorge the corm'rant, man.
Besides our native flocks and herds, each day
Of sheep and oxen hecatombs purvey'd
From Belgium, Holland, Germany and Spain,
Are cruelly slaughter'd on our crimson'd soil.
Whilst carcasses of beeves, in freezing cells
Of steamers, borne from transatlantic ports,
And meats preserv'd from Australasian wilds,
Faintly suggest the dreadful agonies
By cattle suffer'd. Visit Rotterdam,
Or Antwerp. Watch the unresisting sheep
Heartlessly pack'd by hundreds in the boats
For Harwich or for London. Nor a wisp
Of provender nor water is supplied
Throughout the voyage. Brutal mariners
Leap on their backs, their panting flanks to bruise,
Until the half-asphyxiated drove
Is landed, and in fever'd state despatch'd
Direct to the abattoir. Here I crave
Courage and language to describe the scene.
In public slaughter-house, 'mid crowded streets
Of Newgate, Aldgate; in obscurer hut
Suburban, and sequester'd village lane,
The butcher wields his unrelenting knife.
Misty and dank the air, with sickly smell
Opprest; the floor empurpled; in the midst,

The slaughterer in leathern greaves and belt,
With pouch in which the instruments of death
Prominently rattle. A vulpine boy,
As henchman, eagerly impatient drags
The trembling animals, their life to yield
With plaintive bleat and most despairing eye,
Scenting the tepid gore profusely shed
From their companions. Horrified, I gaze,
Dazzled by blood and weltering hides.—Enough,
I drop the curtain lest I faint, dismay'd.
Now, as the legal doctrine holds that *Qui*
Facit per alium facit per se,
Those who in fleshly esculents indulge
Are murd'rous as the butcher they depute
To be their minister. MAKAPIOI
OI' 'EAEH'MONEΣ the preacher cries,
Nevertheless, the clergy amply feast
On turtle, lobster, *pâtés de foies gras*,
And ev'ry palatable luxury,
Unheedful of the precept, and the pain
Their banquets indicate. Old maids may groan
Against the vivisectors, bishops rant
And statesmen thunder, but their pity halts
At self-indulgence. Tenderness dispels
Remorse when gluttony asserts her sway ;
And mankind jocund, as at Christmastide
When they the Prince of Peace invoke, consign
Thousands of geese and turkeys to the spit.
Almost in infancy our race derives
Amusement from barbarity. The child
Flies, caterpillars, worms and moths destroys

In savage wantonness ; stones frogs, toads, newts ;
Despoils the bird-nest ; tyrannises o'er
Feræ naturæ, whether quadruped,
Piscatory or feather'd. Later on,
By fables, parables, and moral tales
He's taught humanity, but callous proves
To inculcation, as his seniors
In bloodshed revel, and his tutors prey
On lambs and hares—oft-times to youth adduc'd
In expositions of benevolence.
By hunting, shooting, coursing, fishing, man
Confirms his brutal temper. At *battues*
Of game—from grouse to kangaroo—he strides
A privileg'd assassin, scathless held
'Gainst penalties of vivisection ! Yet,
By sportsmen, *daily* more enormities
Are perpetrated than the whole array
Of physiologists have *e'er* contriv'd.
More abject vagabonds, with thirst of blood,
The small amphibia swallow, and devour
Live larks and sparrows ; also gratify
Their hideous tastes by snaring, ferreting,
Ratting, and harrying cats ; by torturing
Domestic animals, as donkeys, cows ;
By dog and cock-fighting—the last the most
Delectable to their detestable,
Unfeeling nature. Englishmen subscribe
(*Scantly* subscribe) to a Society
For checking and preventing cruelty
To animals. But witness in our streets
The drooping horses yok'd to omnibus,

Cab, cart, and van. Th' appalling pain condense
These over-work'd, diseas'd and starveling beasts
Endure, in kind repayment of the toil
Perform'd for man, their noble master ; who,
When they are utterly effete, transfers
Their carcase to the shambles. Still 'tis said
(Under the supervision of our laws)
That we are merciful ; and that in Rome,
The centre of a zealous Christian faith,
Bloodthirstiness to animals transcends
So far th' atrocities observ'd with us,
Our countrymen, disgusted, often quit
The city to escape such sick'ning scenes.
Whilst the barbarian Turk, a demon deem'd
By Western peoples, tow'rd's the brute displays
Much greater clemency—a real test
Of generosity and kindness.
Bull-fights enrapture Spain ; and amateurs
Engage in tauromachy at Seville
In view of princes. Cavaliers with poles
Fell the infuriate bull. Fierce plaudits ring
Throughout the amphitheatre from throats
Of truculent spectators, as the earth,
With trailing entrails smear'd, is drench'd in blood.
Priest-ridden wretches sue their patron saint
For mercy, grace and favour, whilst they steel
Their stony hearts 'gainst pity, and exult
O'er slaughter'd bulls and horses gor'd to death.
In Indian jungles Royalty pursues
The pond'rous elephant, and slips the leash
From purring cheetahs which with rav'ning fangs

Rend tim'rous deer. Burly rhinoceros
Encounters buffalo, and ram with ram
In deadly contest wrestles ; to divert
Most Christian gentlemen, amongst whom sits
The Heir-apparent to the British throne !

XV.

BUT not to animals alone is man
Remorseless. From the dawn of history
Bloody and treacherous has ever been
Man unto fellow man. 'Twere prolix here
To make recital of the damning proofs
Of his ferocity. In rapid flight
Review the past. Survey the glyptic piles
Of Memphian Pharaöhs, the sculptur'd slabs
Of buried Nineveh, memorials dire
Of wailing bondage and the sack of towns.
Peruse the Book which claims in page inspir'd
To tell the origin and fate of man.
Scarce had the human race as one sole pair
Appear'd ere Discord reign'd. Their first-born,
Cain,
A husbandman, in fratricidal hate
His younger brother slew. The chosen seed
Of Jacob sold their father's favour'd son
To Ishmaelites, to compromise their thirst
Of blood, by Reuben counsell'd. Israël
Forc'd Canaän by conquest 'neath the yoke ;
And Joshua, encouraged by the Lord,

And Mistress Rahab, Jericho destroy'd,
Smiting the kings, apportioning the land
And killing "man and woman, young and old."
Jew and Philistine warring unto death
Employ the sacred scribes—their records stain'd
With deeds of pillage, dispossession, lust
And murder. Jephthah routs the Ammonites,
And Samson on his foes avengement wreaks,
Whilst Greece campaigning on the plain of Troy
A whole decenniad strives to raze its walls.
Between the Hebrew and Phœnician clans
With alternating hap feud feud succeeds.
From Rehoboam, ten tribes opprest revolt ;
Whom, Shalmanezar, King of Babylon,
Samaria plundering, leads captive home.
In ancient chronicles the constant theme
Is war, extermination, slavery
And rapine. (Aptly parallel'd to-day
By Turk and Muscov on Bulgarian slopes.)
With Sabines and with Alba Rome contends ;
Laconia with Messene—triple wars.
Nebuchadnezzar spoils Jerusalem,
And in captivity Jehoiachin
The King of Judah, holds. Cyrus, the Mede,
Subjugates Crœsus, ransacks Babylon
(Belshazzar reigning), in his last assault
The stream Euphrates draining from its bed.
Cambyses conquers Egypt. Rome repels
Porsenna, friend of Tarquin—on the bridge
Horatius Cocles singly bearing brunt
Of battle. Sardis by Athenians fir'd

Exasperates Darius to invade
The soil of lusty Greece. At Marathon,
Datis and Artaphernes worsted yield
To fam'd Miltiades. Leonidas,
The Spartan, at Thermopylæ withstands
The horde of Xerxes, whilst at Salamis
His fleet immense is sunken or destroy'd.
Pausanias triumphant at Platæa
Mardonius defeats, and Mycæle,
Contested the contemporary day,
Scatters the dreams of Persia and her host.
Greek Greek assails—the third Messenian War
Concluded. The Bœotian arms defeat
Th' Athenian force at Chæronea. Long wars
Convulse the Peloponnesians. Athens bows
Before puissant Sparta. Xenophon
With prudence from Cunaxa's plain retreats,
When Artaxerxes vanquishes and slays
Cyrus, his brother. Agesilaus
Prosecutes war in Asia with success
'Gainst Artaxerxes. Internecine fights
Distract the Greeks. Rome by the Gauls is burnt.
Philip, the Macedonian, vict'ry gains
O'er the Athenian troops and their allies.
He crushes Thracian and Illyrian,
And wastes the Phocian in the sacred war.
Pausanias stabs him. The Pellæan youth,
Grasping the sceptre, sighs to conquer worlds.
Thebes he demolishes ; Darius makes
His prisoner ; Persepolis ignites ;
Historic Tyre besieges and destroys,

And murders Clitus in a drunken brawl.
The Indus crossing, on Hydaspes' bank
He humbles Porus ; to the Hyphāsis
His march extends. In mutinous return
His gluttoned army reaches Babylon,
Where Alexander dies. His captains seize
The monarchy. Humiliated Rome
By Samnite prowess is compell'd to crouch
Beneath the Caudine Forks. Antigonus,
At Ipsus, with his son Demetrius,
Engages Ptolemy, Lysimachus,
Seleucus, and Cassander. Death o'ertakes
Antigonus. Lysimachus is slain
Fighting Seleucus. Pyrrhus against Rome
Assists Tarentum. Greeks dispatch the Gauls
At Delphi. Rome initiates a war
With Carthage. Corinth and the whole of Greece
In conflict struggle. Hannibal attacks
Saguntum, and a second Punic War
Results. At Trebia he overthrows
The Roman arms ; at Thrasymene's lake
And Cannæ. Philip in Epirus forms
With Hannibal alliance. Syracuse
Is taken by Marcellus, baffled long
By Archimedes. Asdrubal is slain
By Claudius, and Scipio decides
The second Punic War on Zama's plain.
A Macedonian War begins with Rome.
Philip, at Cynocephalæ o'erwhelm'd
By Flamininus, sues for peace. Disputes
Between the Romans and Antiochus

Succeed. To Asia first the Latin arms
Extend, importing Syrian luxury
To Rome. A second Macedonian War,
Th' united effort of expiring Greece,
Nought but disaster breeds. Decaying Hellas
At Pydna cowers before the might of Rome.
Th' Achæan league is broken. Shortly Greece
Becomes a Roman province. Carthage risks
Encounter with Numidian squadrons, led
By Masinissa, whence ensues the third
(Last) Punic War. Responding to the cry
Of brutal Cato, Roman soldiers burn
The rival city, raze its walls, and plough
The very ruins. Corinth, Chalcis, Thebes,
Are overthrown by Mummius. War prolong'd
Numantia disturbs. Jugurtha braves
Metellus, but to Sylla is betray'd,
And dragg'd in chains by Marius to adorn
His triumph. Teutones and Cimbri sweep
The fields of Latium. Caius Marius
The barb'rous flood repulses in a mood
Equally ruthless. Mithridates plots
And massacres his Roman subjects. Sylla
Pontus invades and Mithridates foils,
Who begs for peace. By Pompey overpower'd
In later battle, Mithridates flees
And dies obscure. Sylla and Marius
The state embroil in civil war. Revolt
Of Spartacus endangers Rome—suppress'd
By Crassus and by Pompey. Crete subdued
Surnames Metellus. Cæsar sails from Gaul,

Surveying Britain to enlarge the bounds
Of Roman conquest. Civil war recurs
'Twixt Cæsar and Pompeius. On the plain
Pharsalian, Pompeius suffers rout.
He meets assassination at the hands
Of Ptolemy. Victorious Cæsar seeks
Delight in tawny Cleopatra's arms;
Meanwhile subduing Egypt, Scipio,
Cato and Juba, and Pompeius' sons
In Africa and Spain. By Brutus stabb'd,
The conqueror in many hundred fights,
The slaughterer of millions feebly dies,
A traitor branded. A Triumvirate
Ensues with horrible proscription. Rome
With blood is delug'd. On Philippi's field
Octavius and Antonius engage
Brutus and Cassius. Their suicide
On the Triumviri confers supreme
Dominion. Antony prepares for war
Against Octavius. At Actium
Octavius triumphs. Antony succumbs,
Self-murder'd, bathed by Cleopatra's tears.
Octavius dons the purple and assumes
The title of Augustus. Parthian hordes
Bend to Tiberius. Drusus defeats
Vindelici and Rhæti. In Pannonia,
Tiberius battles, vanquishing the foe.
Varus is routed by Arminius
In Germany. Germanicus retrieves
The Roman eagles, and at Antioch
Is poison'd for his fame.

ON CALVARY—

BETRAY'D BY A DISCIPLE; BUFFETED,
 SPAT ON AND SMOTE; WITH CURSES AND WITH
 OATHS
 BY PETER THRICE DENIED; BY PILATE
 SCOURGED;
 FORSOOK BY HIS APOSTLES; STRIPP'D,
 BEMOCK'D
 AND PIERC'D BY PAGAN SOLDIERS—JESUS CHRIST,
 OFFENCELESS SACRIFICE OF WRATHFUL MAN,
 BLEEDS ON THE CROSS. MALEVOLENCE AND HATE
 OF PRIEST AND SCRIBE WITH CRUELLEST INSOLENCE
 OF RABBLE BLEND TO EXECUTE A CRIME
 DETESTABLY ENORMOUS AND ACCURS'D.

Claudius visits Britain and enacts
 A triumph. By Ostorius subdued
 Caractacus is sent in chains to Rome.
 Boädicea outrag'd in revolt
 Massacres legions, but Suetonius
 Annihilates her forces. In despair
 The queen takes poison. Christian martyrdoms
 Prevail, and persecutions desolate
 The Church of Christ. Beheaded is Saint Paul,
 Saint Peter crucified. Jerusalem
 Beleaguer'd yields to famine, and the Jews,
 By Titus decimated, homeless mourn,
 Their holy city pillag'd, raz'd and burnt.
 The Dacians suffer chastisement. Anew
 Christians are tortur'd. Trajan, prompt in arms,
 Annexes Dacia, and in token builds

His famous column. Followers of Christ
Again are persecuted. Jews revolt
In Libyan Cyrene, murdering
Roman and Greek. Infuriated Rome
Sternest reprisal deals. Unhappy times
Afflict the Christians. Hadrian rebuilds
Jerusalem. The Jews once more rebel,
Are massacred by myriads, dispers'd,
And banish'd from Judæa. Fire and sword
Of Catti and of Rhæti, a revolt
In Britain and the Parthian ravages
Are quell'd. The Christians persecuted. War
Destroys the Marcomanni. Parthian hordes
Are check'd ; the Caledonians repuls'd ;
The Christians harass'd ; Germans overthrown ;
Whilst Emperors by the Prætorian guards,
Conspiracy or mutiny are slain.
Sapor of Persia pris'ner takes and flays
Valerian. Aurelian defeats
Zenobia. Rome is immers'd in war
On ev'ry side. Sarmatian, Scythian, Goth,
Invade the Empire. Dioclesian routs
Barbarian swarms. By heinous cruelties,
The Christians are thro' ten long years oppress'd ;
Till Constantine in fancy, on his march
Against Maxentius, in Heav'n perceives
A symbol (or from policy pretends
The vision to his army), and adopts
The new religion. Christians in their turn
Become the persecutors, in the name
Of Christ inflicting torment and excess

On Arian and Pagan. Sapor, King
Of Persia, o'er the eastern provinces
Of Rome incursion makes. Constantius,
Waging a chronic war, with torture kills
The son of Sapor. Under Mursa's walls
Constantius defeats Magnentius
With loss of finest vet'ran troops to each.
Against the Persians Julian turns his arms
With dubious victory, and wounded dies.
Valens, the Arian, bitterly molests
Orthodox Catholics. Procopius
Insurgent, taken pris'ner, is condemn'd
To execution. Valentinian
Repels the Saxons, Alemanni, Franks
And Quadi. Valens by the Goths in Thrace
Is overthrown, but Theodosius
By many severe defeats arrests their pow'r.
The Eastern from the Western Empire parts.
Goths, Germans, Alans, Caledonians, Moors,
Disturb the Western. Stilicho awhile
Curbs Alaric; but reinforce'd, the Goth
Besieges, takes and sacks imperial Rome.
The Vandals enter Spain, and overrun
The provinces of Africa. The Huns,
Led by King Attila the scourge of God,
Ravage the plains of Europe. Saxon swarms
Oppress the Britons. Genseric, the King
Of Moors and Vandals, plunders Rome. Depos'd
By the barbarian Odoacer,
Augustulus, last Emperor of the West,
Sinks to contempt.

'Twere hideous to pursue,
 Except most briefly, the unceasing crime,
 Barbarity and bloodshed done by man
 Since Rome's decline. The Northern hive swoops
 down

On Southern Europe. Belisarius
 Exterminates the Vandals. Mahōmet
 Compiles and propagates his creed, and rears
 The Saracenic Empire. Popes commence
 To exercise imperious sway. The Arabs
 Capture Jerusalem, and Alexandria
 Despoil. The Britons, by the Saxons driv'n,
 Retreat to Wales and Cornwall. Caliphs spread,
 With havoc, Moslem doctrines. Conq'ring Spain
 They ravage France, to be in front of Tours
 By Martel slaughter'd. Charlemagne routs the Huns
 And founds the German Empire. Scots and Picts
 Decisive battle. England by the Danes
 Is wasted—by King Alfred overthrown.
 From Western Tartary, the Turcoman
 Devastates Persia. William of Falaise
 At Hastings overcomes the Saxon king.
 His northmen seize our island and divide
 The spoil—their savage code that “might makes
 right.”

The Saracen and Moor victorious
 Hold rule in Spain. Against the Infidel
 Most Christian kings begin crusade and fight
 More than a century. *En route*, Cologne
 And Trèves surrender to their holy swords
 The lives of sev'nteen thousand Jews. The Guelph

And Ghibelline in deadly discord plot,
Involving popes and kings. Plantagenet
Ireland reduces. Innocent the Third
Against the Albigenses promulgates
His merciless decrees. The Inquisition,
The most implacably relentless pow'r
Ever by priestly tyranny usurp'd,
Is instituted. (Hellish Torquemada,
Incarnate demon, bigot damnable,
Performs, in later times, autos-da-fé
On heretics by thousands—praising God!—
Unpall'd with butch'ry.) Under Zingis Khan
The Tartars overrun the Saracens,
With death and desolation. Bagdad falls.
Turk and Venetian in wars engage,
Thro' sev'ral hundred years to be prolong'd.
Scotland is harried by Norwegian foes,
By Alexander routed. Prince Llewellyn
Of Wales is slain. The Principality
By Edward is annex'd to England's crown.
The Scots appeal to Edward, whence proceeds
Warfare calamitous. At Bannockburn
The Bruce annihilates the Southron host.
Swartz of Cologne the "smutty grain" invents
(Terrific curse to man) which on the field
Of Cressy first (?) from bomb and mortar fir'd
The French confounds. The Turks to Europe
spread.
At Poitiers, the King of France is ta'en
By the Black Prince a prisoner. The Lollards
Are burnt alive. By Timour overthrown

Bajazet dies encag'd. The flow'r of France
At Agincourt to England yields. The Duke
Of Bedford nobly burns the virgin witch
Of Orléans. The rival claims of York
And Lancaster intestine wars provoke.
Byzantium is taken by the Turks.
Richard is slain at Bosworth. Ferdinand
The Moors in Spain subdues, with zealous aid
(And horrors) of the Inquisition. Tartars
Dispute the Mogül empire. Flodden Field
Brings death to Scottish James. The Ottoman
Subjects the Mamelukes. The Spaniards seize
Hispaniola and depopulate
The island. Cuba shares its fate. With guns,
With hounds, with flames, three millions of our
race

Are massacred. Cortez in Mexico
The murd'rous rôle repeats ; and in Peru
Pizarro. Luther from his cell avows
His heresy, and persecution goads
Ecclesiastic factions. Soliman
Takes Rhodes, Belgrade and Buda, and extends
His conquest to Vienna. Calvin burns
Servetus. Royal Henry, of the faith
Defender, confiscates monastic wealth,
Assisted by the scaffold. Mary roasts,
Retaliating, Protestant divines—
Her diabolic minions, Gardiner
And Bonner, Bishops, th' executioners ;
The night of Saint Bartholomew knells out
Assassination to the Huguenots

In Paris, of religious civil wars
Bloody precursor. Philip by the Dutch
Is worsted, and his armament destroy'd
By Howard, Hawkins, Frobisher and Drake.
From France to Turkey, the ensanguin'd face
Of Europe streams with war. In Germany,
The Catholic and Evangelic leagues
Distract the nations. Austrians, Russians, Poles
Are baffled by the Swede, Gustav Adolph,
Who falls at Lutzen. Popish plots are rife.
In Ireland forty thousand Protestants
Are doom'd to murder. Civil dudgeon racks
Our country. Cavalier and Puritan
Contend with mortal rancour. Charles the First
Is executed. Cromwell overcomes
The Irish and the Scots. The Dutch by sea
Under Van Tromp are scatter'd. France is vex'd
By civil and domestic war. King Louis
Spreads discord over Europe. England wrests,
With France, possessions from the Swedes and
Dutch,
In North America. Louis invades
The Netherlands. In England, Titus Oates
Supplies the block with victims. By the Turks
Vienna is besieged. The Protestants,
By revocation of a tolerant law,
In France are persecuted. Monmouth's head
Is forfeited and his adherents hang'd
And quarter'd, with the brutal help of Kirke
And Jefferies. The Revolution breeds
Fresh disaffection. Killiekrankie cows

The Highlanders, and William at the Boyne
Crushes the Stuarts. The Dutch and English fleets
Destroy the Frenchman off La Hogue. At Glencoe,
William and his infernal minister,
The Earl of Stair, slaughter in coldest blood
Men, women, children. Faithless Louis schemes,
Making and breaking treaties. Marlborough
And Prince Eugene his arrogance repress
At Blenheim. Rooke Gibraltar grasps from Spain.
Ramilies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet
Humble despotic Louis. Charles the Twelfth
Confuses Denmark, Poland and the Czar
Of Muscovy. Reverses at Pultowa
Drive him to Turkish soil. In frantic fight
His band opposes hosts. Disarm'd he gains
His liberty, and dies, against the Danes
Employ'd in arms. The Scots declare for Charles
And suffer rout. The Turks by Prince Eugene
Are shatter'd. Kouli Khan the throne usurps
Of Persia. Russia struggles with the Porte.
Delhi is sack'd by Nadir (Kouli) Shah
Who reaps amazing booty and secures
The Koh-i-noor. England her fleet directs
Against the Spaniards. Sweden wages war
With Russia. Chronic insurrection reigns
In Ireland. George, at Dettingen, defeats
The French. Prolong'd hostilities involve
England with France and Spain. Anson despoils
The Spaniards. English, Dutch and Austrian
troops,
At Fontenoy, are beaten by the French.

The Jacobites at Prestonpans achieve
A victory, but are by Cumberland
Crush'd at Culloden. Bergen-op-Zoom sheds
Disgrace on the allies ; but Anson, Hawke
And Warren scour the seas. In India
And North America, France strives in vain
'Gainst England for supremacy. The French
Capture Minorca—as a scapegoat, Byng
Is shot. At Arcot, Clive defeats the French
And natives. Sev'n years' war deforms the plains
Of Europe. The Black Hole by Dowlah cramm'd
Smothers its inmates. Damien seeks the life
Of Louis Quinze. Flames and dismemberment
Atone the deed. At Plassy, Clive regains
Calcutta, and with checks, the British pow'r
Has ever since encroach'd on Indian soil.
Wolfe at Quebec is slain. Britain at sea
Scatters the French and Spaniards. Hyder Ali,
Assisted by the Nizam, frustrates long
His European foe. Turkey declares
War against Russia. Warren Hastings rules
Bengal, and murders its Nabobs. In spite
Of solemn treaties, Prussia, Austria, Russia
Divide the Polish kingdom. Civil war
Great Britain and her colonies embroils.
Th' American United States proclaim
Their independence, and in desp'rate fights
King George's troops repulse. At Saratoga,
Burgoyne surrenders. Hyder Ali wastes
The British forces. Lord George Gordon heads
His fatal riots. England prosecutes

War with America, Spain, Holland, France
And Tippoo. Warren Hastings spoliates
The Begums. Lord Cornwallis yields his force
To Washington. Turkey renews her war
With Russia and with Austria. The Swedes
Against the Russ and Dane resort to arms.
The long-pent passion of the Paris mob
Explodes in revolution. The Bastile,
Damn'd engine of enormity, is doom'd.
France wars with Russia, Austria, Savoy
And Holland. Suwarrow demolishes
Ismail by storm, with bloody massacre
Of its defenders. Tippoo Sultan braves
England, the Nizam, and Mahratta chiefs.
The Russians harass Poland. Robespierre
(Egregious monster), rioting in blood
Grows more and more athirst. A million necks
Spout forth their life-stream. France 'gainst
England, Spain
And Holland war resumes. Napoleon
Gains notice at Toulon. The miscreants
Danton and Robespierre are guillotined.
Crush'd by the Russians, Kosciusko bleeds ;
Poland becomes extinguish'd. Arcola
Dismays the Austrians. Napoleon
Embarks for Egypt. Nelson at the Nile
The Gallic fleet destroys. England, Russia,
Germany, Turkey, Naples, Portugal,
'Gainst France form coalition. Tippoo Saib
Is slain in Hindostan. The French o'ercome
The Othman at Aboukir. Cruel war,

Due to aggressions, rages long between
Great Britain and the Nizam in Mysore,
Scindia and Holkar, Rajah and Nabob.
France at Marengo gains a hard-fought field.
Nelson takes Copenhagen. Abercrombie
At Alexandria defeats the French.
The Corsican is made First Consul. War
Ravages Europe. Conflict is provok'd
By France with England. Austria, Russia, Naples
Combine against the former. Nelson dies
Victorious at Trafalgar. Austerlitz
Confounds the Czar and Austrian. England,
Prussia,
Russia and Saxony form coalition
Against Napoleon. At Auerstadt
And Jena, Prussia yields. Russia invades
The Principalities. France aids the Poles
Against the Russians. Eylau's desp'rate fight
Disturbs the Czar. The rival emperors,
At Tilsit meeting, secret treaty make
For the partitionment of Europe. Russia
'Gainst Sweden and 'gainst England war declares ;
Turkey 'gainst Russia. England legislates,
Her trade abolishing in human flesh.
To the peninsula Napoleon
Transfers the conflict. Against Austria
Russia campaigns. French squadrons occupy
Vienna. Wellesley at Talavera
Curbs the invaders. Thwarted and repuls'd
In stubborn battles, France's marshals beat
Retreat, contending ; at Vittoria crush'd ;

The conqueror forcing the Bidassoa
Triumphant lifts the yoke from Spain. Meanwhile
Walcheren's deadly climate wastes the lives
Of Englishmen. Napoleon assails
Russia, by Sweden join'd against the French.
Moscow is burnt. The French retire with loss
Of quarter of a million men. The Turks
Desolate Servia. America
A war renews with England : and the *Shannon*
Captures the *Chesapeake*. Prussia and Russia
Unite against Napoleon. The allies
Draw up their "declaration" and invade
The French dominions. Paris is surrender'd ;
Napoleon abdicates for Elba's isle.
Ten months elapse. The Emperor returns
And enters Belgium. Waterloo decides
His destiny. With blasted laurels, he
Is banish'd to Saint Helena, to die
From cancer. British ships bombard Algiers.
The Wahabees in Syria are subdued.
The Principalities revolt. The Greeks
Assist the insurrection and proclaim
Their independence. Ninety thousand Greeks
Are massacred at Scio. Mitylene
Faintly avenges Turkey's murd'rous deed.
England extends her conquests to Rangoon
And Assam. Against Persia Russia turns
Her arms. The Janissaries are destroy'd
By Sultan Mahmoud. Navarino's fight
Destroys the Turkish fleet. War is declar'd
Against the Porte by Russia, who blockades

The Dardanelles. Silistria is tak'n,
Adrianople occupied. Albania
Rebels. The French annex Algiers. In Paris,
The streets are barricaded. Revolution
Dethrones the Bourbon. Mehemet revolts
From Turkey. By the Carlists, Spain is drench'd
For years in civil war. The Mexicans
Contend with France. An Anglo-Indian force
Meddles in Afghanistan. Akbar Khan
Butchers an army of five thousand—four
Escaping. Abd-el-Kader's bands defy
The French. Great Britain harries the Chinese;
Refusing to be poison'd, they destroy
Thousands of chests of opium. England burns
Their junks and storms Canton. Russia is foil'd
Warring in Khiva; and the Caucasus
Her troops exhausts. Protracted insurrection
Convulses Spain. The Sikhs are overcome
At Moodkee and Sobraon. Poland strives
Vainly for independence. Seven hundred
Kabyles are smother'd by Pelissier
In the Dahara caverns. Mexico
Against th' United States initiates
Unprosp'rous war. From Paris, revolution
Drives Louis Philippe. Insurrections vex
The Principalities. Prussia defeats
The Danes. Sardinia hazards a campaign
'Gainst Austria, and on Novara's plain
Is routed by Radetsky. Hungary
Rises in revolution. Austria,
With Russia, crushes the insurgents, first

Victorious. Napoleon contrives
The *coup d'état* and rehabilitates
His dynasty. The Russian autocrat,
About the Holy Places feigning qualms
Of conscience, seeks a quarrel with the Porte.
The barb'rous Czar's encroachments to subvert,
England and France are leagued in the Crimea
Against the Russ : and later, Italy.
Dislodg'd at Alma, Balaclava's charge
Strikes panic on the Russian ; Inkermann
Confirms the blow. Sebastopol is ta'en,
Its forts destroy'd. England bombards Canton,
And war with Persia wages. Mutiny
Amongst the Sepoys shocks the Government
Of India. Nana Sahib, at Cawnpore,
Slaughters the residents. The outbreak is,
In seas of blood, suppress'd. Sardinia,
With France, against the Austrian combines
And conquers at Magenta. Solferino
Concludes the struggle. Schamyl in Daghestan
Combats the Russians. Garibaldi routs
The Royalists in Sicily. The Druses
Twelve thousand Maronites in Lebanon
Fanatically slay. To Italy,
The Papal states, with bloodshed, are annex'd.
The French and English squadron at Peiho
Capture the Taku forts. Of Pekin, France
The summer palace sacks. Against the Porte
Herzegovina rises. Poland strains
Her Russian fetters. The United States
(Or disunited) on the land and seas

For six long years in civil contest bleed ;
Their slaves are manumitted in the South
By proclamation. Montenegro strives
With Turkey. Garibaldi's bands resist
Victor Emmanuel's legions, and sustain
Defeat at Aspromonte. Fenians plot
In Clonmel and America. The Danes
Confront the Austrian and Prussian troops
In Sleswig-Holstein. In the Caucasus
Russia extends her conquest. A revolt
Inflames Jamaica. Italy directs
Her arms 'gainst Austria ; Custozza proves
Disastrous to the former. Saxony
Is ravag'd by the Prussians, who campaign
Against the Austrians. The German states
Are all involv'd in warfare. Königsgratz
Discomfits Austria. A British force
The Abyssinian chastises. France
Assails the German. Wöerth, Sedan and Metz
Bring downfall to Napoleon. The siege
Of Paris utterly confounds the French.
England Ashantee penetrates. The Russians
Khiva invade, and Kaufmann massacres
The Yomuds in Turkestan. Carlist troops
Disturb the Spaniards. Pious Russia, stirr'd
By Christian sufferings and lust of pow'r,
Attacks the Porte. Barbarian Muscovites
With *vodka* madden'd, by a brutal Duke
Commanded, devastate the fairest plains
Of Europe—long repuls'd by gallant Turks
Contending stubbornly for hearth and home.

Plevna capitulates. The wily Czar
 An armistice, with diplomatic craft
 Concedes, whilst he consolidates his lines
 In front of Stamboul. Deaf to trait'rous yells
 Of peacemongers, Lord Beaconsfield serene
 Our fleet dispatches to Besika Bay
 And challenges the Northern Bear. Dismay'd,
 The bankrupt Russian pauses, and solicits
 A Congress at Berlin. Lords Beaconsfield
 And Sal'sbury insist on a retreat
 Trans-Balkan. Cyprus, ceded by the Porte
 To England, checks the Slavic vehemence
 In Asia Minor. With reluctant grace,
 Russia accepts (to be defortified)
 The port of Batoum ; but from her ally,
 Roumania, wrests the Bessarabian plains.
 Travers'd, outwitted, mortified, chagrin'd
 By England's Premier, Lord Beaconsfield,
 And Sal'sbury, our truly noble Earls,
 The Muscov signs the Treaty of Berlin.

XVI.

THE stream of history rolls on unchang'd
 Thro' depthless channels, brimming with the flow
 Of human gore and tears ! Doth *Providence*
 Decree, or *Law* necessitate, or *Chance*
 Determine the incessant woes of man ?
 What influence precipitates the storm,
 Plague, famine, earthquake, inundation, fire ;

And ordinales the wheeling of the spheres
Remotest, in the boundless vault of Heav'n ?
Is the vast Cosmos senseless, or instinct
With consciousness, impassive or alert ?
Lost in mysterious mazes, baffled thought
Reverts from speculation to the trials
And grievous cruelties on earth endur'd.
How ineffective all conception proves
To realise the anguish and the ruin
Accrued from war and conquest, falsely term'd
The paths of glory. Who can calculate
The bloodshed, torture, inhumanity,
By dominant on subject man impos'd
Till now from the beginning ? Jealousy
Of nations, whim of kings, enormities
Of despots, perfidy of counsellors,
Intrigue of priests and pique of mistresses
Have wasted provinces, unpeopled states
And render'd fertile regions barren. Who,
Thro' untold centuries, can estimate
The agony, exaction, massacre,
In barb'rous lands prevailing, and the horrors,
Crimes, murders, violence and treachery
Of unrecorded feud and war ? In turn
Nation oppresses nation, robs, enslaves,
Annexes or exterminates (a fact
Coeval with mankind). Th' Egyptian goads
The child of Israël. The Jew releas'd
Spoils the Philistine. Ev'ry race observes
A brutal policy, until, with glut
Of territory sated, it affects

Forbearing virtues, zealous to conserve
An equipoise of pow'r. The history
Of ev'ry country is inscrib'd in blood ;
And progress rests on conquest, force and wrong,
Mask'd when occasion ceases. England soothes
Her tributary millions in the East,
Consistent with security. Permitted
To raise a fact'ry on pretext of trade
She stealthily intrudes, by battle, fraud
And tyranny. Yet the facin'rous deeds
Of Warren Hastings public sentiment
So outrag'd, that the Commons him impeach'd
Before the Lords—(in vain).—A Resident
At ev'ry native court espionage
Employs, as agent of our Government
In view of mutiny. Gaunt Famine sweeps
A Presidency ; thousands droop and die ;
Emaciate mothers clasp their starving babes
Gasping for life, unsuccour'd. Ministers
Proclaim Victoria Empress, and a vote
Of six or sixty millions is resolv'd
Upon for war. A Sepoy force is sent
To Europe. It on charity devolves
To dole a feeble aid from pavid death
To Indian fellow-mortals, who are tax'd
To pay for their subjection, and denied,
Save with enormous tribute, salt for food.
Britannia with possessions gorg'd, herself
Congratulates on "mercy," scheming not
To vanquish other continents and realms
As in the past. Unrighteousness has chang'd

Her front. No Christian nations persecute
The Jew (as in the mediæval times
When Sultan, Pagan, Pope, Crusader, King,
All gloried in extortion, ravishment,
Pillage and slaughter, torture—rack and wheel—
On the unhappy Hebrew visited) ;
Except the fraudulent, callous, murd'rous Russ,
Oppressor of the Pole and Israelite,
Assassin of the Yomuds. France no more
Exterminates the Carib. Even Spain
And Portugal grow kind. Three hundred years
Ago, one Hawkins (Heaven bless the mark—
Sir John !) between the Gold Coast and the Isle
Of Saint Domingo traffick'd with the world
In slaves. By assiento, Flanders, Spain,
The Genoese, and, later, England, France,
Contracted for supply of human flesh
To stock their colonies. Virginia
Held commerce with the Dutch ; and slavery,
Within the Southern States has been annul'd
But eighteen years. Nearly a cent'ry since
A Bill to Parliament was introduc'd
To mitigate the horrors of the *trade*.
A space of five feet eight in length, with width
Of sixteen inches, was the full extent
Of room allowed to negroes on the voyage
To our West Indian Islands. Certain men,
Or miscreants, at Westminster oppos'd
All legislative action. Certain ports
In England ev'ry effort to uphold
Slav'ry exhausted. Cooke, the actor, hiss'd

In Liverpool, address'd his audience thus—
 “Harkye, there's not a brick throughout your town
 But what is with the blood of Africans
 Cemented.” ’Twere revolting to engage
 In more detail, beyond the following case
 (From Grattan) which i' th' Southern States
 occur'd

In eighteen hundred fifty-one. “*Soutter
 Against the Commonwealth.*”—“This Soutter tied,
 Whipp'd, cobb'd, struck, beat, kick'd, lacerated,
 stamp'd,

Tortur'd and burnt a negro slave nam'd Sam,
 With switches and a shingle—by two slaves
 And two white witnesses assisted. Tied
 Him to a tree, wash'd him with water warm
 And cayenne pepper, put him in the stocks,
 Stamp'd on him, tied a rope around his neck,
 The rope to a bed-post fasten'd, strangled, chok'd,
 And strangulated the deceased, twelve hours
 Elapsing in the operation.” For

This hellish murder (in the *second* degree)
 The sentence was, i' th' Penitentiary
 Five years' confinement (! !); less than Justice
 metes

In England to a postman who has stol'n
 A newspaper. Throughout the gentle South,
 Advertisement continually proclaim'd
 Fugitive negroes, some with “sandy hair
 Or flaxen, light blue eyes, complexion red
 Or freckled.” Sale of “negroes, cattle, mules
 And saddles.” “Raffle of a buggy, horse

And harness, with a stout mulatto girl
 For fifteen hundred dollars." Parents sold
 Their children and their grandchildren. The
 clergy [rape;
 Own'd, scourg'd, and dealt in slaves; encourag'd
 Parental and connubial ties ignor'd,
 And filial relations—sire and child,
 Husband and wife dispersing, by the State
 Esteem'd as "chattels." Ruffian slaveholders
 On "liberty" descanted, faith profess'd
 In God, yet sacrific'd to Moloch. Ne'er
 Domitian, Torquemada, Robespierre
 Surpass'd such deeds of horror. Vocables
 Fail in description, and the impious scenes
 And lamentation must have soften'd hell.
 Will not retaliation, soon or late,
 O'ertake the offspring of the slaveholder?
 Will not the *quondam* chattels and their race
 Avenge their mangled, murder'd ancestors?
 If the descendants of the African
 The white man of the South exterminate
 In seas of blood, we may deplore (surpris'd
 We cannot be). The North American
 Has ceas'd to crush the black man, but pursues
 The red man with malignity, and scalps
 With ardour as ferocious, with design
 Of extirpation. Thus with bloodier mind,
 From circumstance of policy, the Spaniard
 Havock'd Peru and Cuba. Portuguese,
 Dutch, French and English ravag'd Africa,
 America and Asia. Moor and Turk

From contest and barbarity have grown ;
And Russia, holy Russia, now presents
'The beau-ideal of aggression, stamp'd
'The cut-throat of the world ; vying with Turk
And Montenegrin in terrific deeds
Of savagery and unnatural
Exploits and mutilations. Human jaws
Are sever'd on the battle-field, consign'd
Wholesale to Paris, and the ghastly wares
Are by the dentists purchas'd for the teeth.
What spectacle or story can inspire
A throb of pathos or romantic thrill
In this inex'able, commercial age,
Plunged in irrev'rence and frivolity ?
Who at the present time the lot bewails
Of sev'nty millions starving on the plains
Of Northern China ? Did one breast lament,
Two years past, at two hundred thousand souls
In Backergunge, by a cyclone swept
To wat'ry death ? Explorers greeted back
From Africa, in boastful tales relate
Encounters with the negro, smart *fracas*
In which a band, a tribe or so was slain
With swaggering breechloader. With ourselves
Such acts have different names. Historians
(Those critics of chronology, who pore
O'er hallow'd records of antiquity)
The bloody eccentricities of kings
Extenuate as foibles, weaknesses ;
In instance, David, Herod. Even now
Imperial rank deliverance commands

From infamy, as when Napoleon
His *coup d'état* perform'd, and when the Prince
His cousin pistol'd an unwelcome guest.
The Inquisition, torture, pillory,
Rack, maiden, boot, religious penalties
Have disappear'd ; not from benevolence
Of monarchs, but impatience of the *plebs*
Menacing revolution. Ev'ry class
For liberty, for licence wrestles. Mobs
Intimidate the Governments. The scum
Of proletary callings agitates
For increased pay, diminish'd work. The serf
And labourer essay to vote and rule
In democratic unity. The State
Their dream represses, when from health impair'd
Employment lapses. Never jurist wrought
A more atrocious code of laws than those
Which hedge the pauper. Half-a-crown a week
Accorded by the parish, and a loaf ;
Alternative, the workhouse ; whence the poor,
If friendless, after life's last woes are wreak'd,
Are huddled to dissection. Many a dame,
Aged yet gentle ; many a veteran,
Scarr'd and disabled in his country's cause,
Eking inadequate support for years,
Dies slowly, surely, chronically starv'd :
A most flagitious stain on England's crest.
Of late, with unrestricted insolence
Invading ev'ry haunt amongst the poor,
Has grown (most recent scourge of indigence)
A new Society, which prostitutes

The name of *charity*. No fault, no blot
Of starving man or woman can evade
Its mercenary spies, who rudely bare
Life's closest secrets. Penury is crush'd
But not reliev'd; voluminous reports
Hoodwink the affluent, whose alms are spent
On secretaries, printers, rent and clerks,
Not on the destitute, diseased and old.
Vivitur ex rapto! that is, half mankind
Preys on its weaker moiety. The poor,
Friendless and unprotected, most oppress'd
By insult and injustice. What a staff
Of taskmasters, relieving officers,
Beadles, police, inspecting barristers,
Compel the pauper; place, emolument
And consequence deriving from the class
Maltreated, which extinct, their overseers
Would render lean and famish'd, paupers too;
Whilst of the Local Board the President
(Mayhap a brewer, more *au fait* with malt
Than Poor Law bus'ness) from th' exchequer draws
Thousands per annum, to inform a shoal
Of human sharks and justify excess.
Vivitur ex rapto! what a swarm of hawks
Prey on the idleness, credulity,
Folly and vice of man. The lawyer grasps
The litigant's award. The doctor thrives
On frailty and indulgence. Usurers,
Promoters, cheats decoy the greedy. Quacks
And jugglers rob th' unwary and the weak.
Clairvoyantes fleece and fortune-tellers strip

Their brainless dupes. The cook and publican
On our repletion flourish ; betting men
On our cupidity, *et tous les autres*
With confidence on selfishness depend
And cruelty. “ No honest trade exists,”
Says Herbert Spencer ; “ with integrity
All trade is incompatible. It is
Essentially corrupt.” Tricksters and rogues,
Were conscientious rules ’twixt man and man
Observ’d, must cease ; but all devour their kind
With vulturine voracity. *Vivendi*
Perdere causas propter vitam has
In ev’ry bosom universal weight.
Society eclectic views adopts
Respecting crime. The swindling stockbroker
And cheating banker form a group distinct
From common cutpurses, tho’ all are thieves.
Ambassadors who lie (do any, *not* ?)
At courts are petted, whilst mendacious boys
Are flagellated. Noble reprobates
Are punish’d lightly for the direst guilt.
The immoralities of rank and wealth
Are seiz’d and season’d by a carrion press
As choice adventures. From a heroine
A female outcast differs to the world—
That she’s nor friends nor means. A fallen girl
Cohabiting with Snug, the joiner, lives
Exil’d from recognition ; Lady Dash,
Intriguing with the Colonel, is call’d “ fast ”
In modern *slang*. Miss Ninepins in her prime
(*Dame aux Camélias* across the Straits)

Appears in novels ; and her sisterhood,
Pos'd by photographers in lewdest styles,
Flood the shop-windows, in companionship
With titled women. Should a murd'rer hack
His mistress into fragments, *ladies* press
Befangled and lorgnetted, to his "trial,"
Adjourning to a luncheon with champagne.
To rear the offspring of the criminal,
A public contribution is amass'd
Of sev'ral hundred pounds ; whilst honest men
Bequeath their children to parochial care.
Medea, Clytemnestra, as of old,
Stalk in our midst, with their insidious charms
And with'ring blandishments. *L'argent fait tout*
And monster inquests, lawsuits on divorce
And wills abound. Priests of the Holy Cross
Licentious works "On the Confessional"
Disseminate unpunish'd, but the law
"Fruits of Philosophy" condemns as foul,
And prosecutes its author. Yet we vaunt
Honour, enlightenment, morality,
Civilisation, progress, arts of peace !
Read the intelligence from Paris, Spain,
Vienna, Central Asia, Rome, Berlin,
Russia, the Vatican, United States,
Constantinople and the farthest East,
Warp'd by political dishonesty
And diplomatic fraud. Much nearer home,
Study the journals (like a page diffuse
Of Juvenal), where marriage, birth, and death,
Police and law reports, the state of trade,

The money-market, stocks, amusements, sales,
Sporting intelligence, the theatres,
Starvation, murder, charities, the Court,
The weather, shipping, inquests, suicides,
Barbarity, oppression, drunkenness,
Elections, music, sermons, science, wrecks,
Lust, outrage, burglary, embezzlement,
Accidents, superstition, railways, fires,
Meetings, advertisements, and Parliament,
With every horror, woe, sin, pain and crime,
In un-Arcadian heterogeneousness
Are coarsely mingled—in the race of life
Teaching how rude the struggle, how minute
The heed of others. Who regrets the wretch
Who dies from hæmorrhage or slow disease
In some lone shed forsak'n ; or even reads
The posthumous account compil'd to fill
A corner of the " news " ? Life is not all
Couleur de rose to each. Fifteen per cent.,
t/ Within our larger towns, of mortals die
In hospital ; many without a friend
To soothe their ebbing soul. Myriads expire,
Victims of social tyranny, diseas'd
From occupation—undermin'd in lung
By vapours, dust, exposure ; overstrain'd
In heart by labour ; from intemp'rance hosts,
Morbidity in liver, brain and kidney ; some
Injur'd and maim'd from accident ; whilst all
The humbler languish from privation, food
Unwholesome, soil polluted, air impure
And tainted water. Intermarriage breeds

And aggravates in ev'ry class of life
Distempers, which the cautious and the wise
Escape, but which the weak impute to Heaven,
Ignoring their causation. Hence how few
Enjoy a normal life, longæval gain'd.
Large multitudes expressly earn their bread
As factors of destruction, who design
And fabricate the enginery of war
(Titanic guns, torpedoes, monitors,
Rams, ironclads, explosives, rockets, shells,
And slaughterous artill'ry). Ev'ry land
In Europe bristles in her arsenals
Suspicious of her neighbours ; more engross'd
In dealing than averting death ; more bent
On war than sanitation. Why rave we
At Chinese massacres, the perfidy
Of Mexican and Indian, uncontroll'd
By laws, which keep (*with us*) our murd'ers down ?
Of Malay and Pacific Islander
We scour the seas and devastate the coasts,
Rifling, for paltry insult, vessel, hut
And village ; cannonading, plundering
And kidnapping the natives. Let 's reverse
The process, and conceive a hostile fleet
In Thames or Mersey, burning, pillaging
Our own Penates ! Does the European
Yield in bloodthirstiness to Dahomey
Or brute implacable ? Shut not our eyes
To our assizes and police. Assaults,
Garottings, stabbings, kickings, moral storms
And murders throughout England, Italy

And France are daily, are habitual ;
Agrarian butcheries on Irish soil ;
Riots in Lancashire ; in Greece, banditti ;
The Mafia and Camorra, brigandage
In Italy ; plotters and Nihilists
In East and Central Europe ; Communists
And Socialists on ev'ry side surcharg'd
With revolution. Take the av'rage man
And woman. Note their habits, pleasures, dress
And usual conduct. Bumpkins from the plough,
Loons from the counter, factory and mine
In broad-cloth vested, their superiors
Affect to imitate, especially
Their vices. Mopsa, Persis, Abigail,
Reflect their mistresses. On boat and rail,
Mankind are equal. Ev'ry Jack and Scrub
Assume the gentleman ; but scrubs are nought
But scrubs altho' colossal. Diff'rences
In men are but cutaneous. Compare
The pitman and Ashanti, their behaviour
To animals and women, their beliefs,
Amusements, intellect ; their virtues, crimes.
The miscreants in England who desert
Their parents to the parish are more black
Than tribes who massacre them. Parents starve
(And baby-farmers) infants unto death ;
Idiots are famish'd. All brutalities
Despite the laws are rife. Villains dispatch
Ships cramm'd with dynamite from Bremerhaven,
To gain th' insurance and destroy the crew.
A general depravity and guile

Pervade society, but half-reveal'd
Or wink'd at by the state. Women resort
To artifice, allurements, finery ;
Decorum is discarded. Bold and free
In manners ; harsh in speech, unmusical ;
In mien disdainful, silly. Female taste
Is vilely imitative. Modesty
And delicacy are by wiles usurp'd ;
Simplicity is outrag'd ; art employ'd
Not art but nature to conceal. At nought
Is culture set ; a blush but rarely seen.

Amongst the wealthy classes, heartlessness
And simulation hold conspicuous place.
Porci de grege Epicuri (which
May be translated “ gluttons ”) ne'er forego
An opportunity of dining. Clubs
Suffice the selfish, listless, indolent
Voluptuary, with occasional
Banquets in private. Well-paid secretaries
Of hospitals, dispens'ries, refuges,
Schools, charities, asylums, missions, funds
For artists, actors, printers, victuallers,
Newsvendors, drapers, grocers, lawyers' clerks,
Drovers and cabmen, annually arrange,
Disinterestedly, on their behalf,
A public dinner at the *Albion*,
Freemasons' Tavern, or at *Willis' rooms*,
With lengthy list of Stewards. Others plan
An entertainment to inaugurate
An almshouse or Retreat ; to celebrate

The visit of a king—Barbarian Shah
Or Seyyid—or the anniversary
Of some Reform Bill or a Prince's birth.
Even the Cabinet unbend and dine
At the *Trafalgar* or the *Ship*. No qualms,
From others' hunger, others' misery,
The stomach of the epicure annoy ;
He purchases a ticket ; *may* subscribe
Of his abundance, but does he remit
Himself one luxury, one fancied whim
Or pleasure of existence ; or resign
One sensuality, or exercise
One self-denial ? Polyphemus-like,
He gorges to the grave, and should he leave
A legacy or fortune to a Home
For convalescents or an orphanage,
Is it philanthropy that melts his soul,
Or hatred of relations, or the dread
Of something after death, which prompts a sop
To pacify the Devil ? All mankind,
Across an endless swamp of pain, pursue
The *ignis fatuus*, pleasure, Proteus-shap'd
To suit each fancy, little scrupulous
To gain its ends.

Ambition fires the Bar.

The Bar ! avowedly a licens'd school
Of insolence unbridled, which at times
Deforms the Seat of Justice. Barristers,
Full-fledg'd, are fashion'd at the Inns of Court,
By eating sundry dinners. Precedents,
Reports and musty technicalities
Comprise their education ; narrowness,

Conceit and arrogance their character,
 With sparse exceptions. By retaining fees,
 Red-handed felons, veriest criminals,
 Their services engage, when ev'ry plea,
 Equivocation, quibble and objection
 Are rais'd to frustrate justice. Needy rogues
 Go undefended, and their doom depends
 Upon the judge constrain'd to sift the lies
 Of witness and detective.

In our realm,
 O'erglutted with a tangled growth of codes
 And statutes, honest men may be despoil'd,
 Or ruin'd, by vexatious litigation.
 A bound'ry fence, an arbitrary squire
 Wasting with hounds a farmer's crops, may lead
 To tedious lawsuits, thro' the various courts
 Delay'd with wav'ring judgment, till the Lords
 Decide the last appeal.

A wealthy knave,
 Vindictive, may his needier neighbour crush
 Immerging him in Chancery. Again,
 In some low seaport town—infested haunt
 Of crime and outrage—a despairing wretch
 May by false-swearing constables be dragg'd
 To Bridewell, and, tho' guiltless, be immur'd,
 Robb'd, charg'd, convicted and impris'n'd. The
 Bench,
 Cull'd from the scum of commerce, with their clerk
 Confer (this clerk whilom an ign'rant lad
 Admitted to the office at the pay
 Of half-a-crown a week). A *watch* committee

(Lucus a non lucendo), most compris'd
Of traders, tinkers, jobbers, publicans,
Exists the civic liberties to guard
And check police abuses ! Such committee,
As head policeman or chief constable,
Appoints a fellow usually retir'd
As refuse from the army, and yclept
Captain or Major ; tho' ex-corporals
And decent officers their rank resign
With their commission. Such machinery
Constructs a vicious circle. The police
Are disciplin'd at perj'rous lengths to swear
By their commandant, who, with cringing tongue,
Fawns on and flatters his superiors,
'The watch and magistracy, bodies twain,
Recruited from each other. What a web
'To catch and thrall the innocent ! Police
Forsworn *en masse*, supported by a chief,
Trusted and favour'd by a petty Bench,
And smil'd on by a board municipal,
Who organise the system and elect
Their skulking, murd'rous caitiffs.

Little knows
'The world what vap'rous prate and shallow brains
Compose our judicature ; or the tricks
Of pettifoggers—fees for moving “ rules ” ;
“ Refreshers,” briefs neglected, taxing costs,
Opinions, consultations. Yet the Bench,
Amongst its mediocre occupants,
Has able men and trusty councillors,
Impartial, dignified, approv'd by all.

Lawyers, who practise and appoint the law,
 Restrict fruition of their rights to those
 "Call'd" and "admitted." Not so the divine
 And doctor. Quacks may impudently puff
 Their nostrums and diplomas, tho' an Act
 Exists of purpose to discriminate
 'Twixt doctors and impostors. Doctor Bright
 Of London or of Oxford, Dr. Vile
 Of Heidelberg or Jena, stand alike
 In public estimation. In the years
 Of *Grace* (?) from fifty-eight to sixty, men
 Rush'd headlong to the North. The canny Scots
 Created at Saint Andrews graduates
 Wholesale at thirty guineas (now by law
 Reduc'd to one small annual batch of ten
 Practitioners, over forty.) Edinburgh
 Its Licence vend'd much more cheap—ten pounds.
 Thousands were dubb'd M.D., L.R.C.P.,
 And L.K.Q.C.P.—initials grand!
 Determin'd mathematically thus:
 Plus (+) ten, plus (+) thirty guineas. Certain men,
 M.D.s of Giessen and Erlangen, bought
 For eighty pounds a College Fellowship
 In Scotland, holding infamous degrees
 The means of registration, in themselves
 Unregist'able, worthless, as obtain'd
 By purchase, *in absentia*. Many more,
 With Scotch degrees, hied to Pall Mall in crowds,
 Becoming, by a fee of thirty pounds,
 Full-blown physicians. Universities
 And Colleges nefarious barter wrought

Competitive, defeating all the aims
Of legislation ; and a current joke
Amongst the "faculty" sped far and wide,
That Scotland so ungrudgingly bestow'd
The Doctorate, men bought it for their grooms,
And—horses (as Caligula install'd
His charger) ! Rostock, Wilna, Montreäl,
Malta, Saint Louis, Göttingen, New York,
Lambeth, Toronto, Philadelphia
And Cleveland (Ohio) applied to gain
Admission to the Register. The mass
Of the profession thus assorted strain
To crush a few brave women, diligent
In practising their art, well qualified
By *knowledge and diploma*—poor poltroons
Dreading a gynæcocracy to come
Of medicine and surgery. The times
Are sadly out of joint, and Physic shares
The gen'ral dislocation. If a scrub
With riches, or a wealthy sinner ail,
From self-incurr'd disorder or debauch,
Subservient leeches, prone to imp their fame
In public journals, issue bulletins
Thus to the yawning vulgar—"Mister Blunt
Has passed a restless night ; is weaker much :
Sign'd Wilson Smith ; Godolphin Jones, M.D."
Meanwhile official stamps endorse the wares
Of Cockle, Holloway, John Collis Browne,
With all their kidney. Druggists, herbalists
And Coffinites profess *the doctor's trade*,
Whilst ev'ry 'pothecary has become
(From simple L.S.A.) L.R.C.P.

Or Medicinæ Doctor, to disgrace
Or glorify Apollo—there's the rub !
As charlatans, by hook or crook, acquire
The doctor's title, so each preaching boor,
Or mock divine, the "Reverend" assumes,
Or Doctor of Divinity, if grown
Presumptuous ; from America deriv'd
By paltry payment. Nonconformists rail
At Churchmen and their ritual, but adopt
The prefix of their priests, delusive shams
Oppugnant to humility and truth.
All court celebrity—to be but great,
Famous or infamous. The haughtiest peer
Covets the "Garter" or the "Thistle" ; men
Of minor stamp "Saint Michael and Saint George"
Or "Star of India" (which women crave
For ornament) ; a crowd of lesser lights
Aspire to Knight Commander of the Bath,
Or mere "Companion" ; surgeons, painters, mayors
Content themselves with Knighthood, now and then
Expanded into Baronetcy. Clerks,
Attorneys, merchants, farmers and the world
Of art and commerce are adjudg'd "Esquire,"
Donning heraldic bearings, monogram
Or mean devices. Scientific men
All decorations disregard beyond
The F.R.S. Impaling butterflies ;
Tormenting guinea-pigs ; a monograph
On fossil *pterotherium*, half bird,
Half quadruped ; researches upon heat,
The solar envelope or binary stars ;
A mathematic essay ; quest profound

In embryology, on aldehyde,
Light, radiation, prehistoric man,
The rhythmic visibility of sounds ;
Lake dwellings, numismatics, cryptogams,
And esoteric studies guarantee
Admission to the "Royal," *if a clique*
Debar not entry. But there is, alas !
A petty semi-scientific crew
Worthy of Laputa's suspended isle
(Abortions of Minerva), who, by dint
Of impudence and priggishness, succeed
To gain election ; Fellows without parts
Or literary honesty—of books
The editors, or who the microscope
Tweedle with dull mechanic thumb to trace
Bacterium, vibrio, or doubtful cell
To impotent conclusions. [Scorn alone
To him, *admissible by statute*, clings,
Who, on his claim presuming as a drone
Or dummy at the Privy Council Board,
His asinine proportions dares t' intrude
'Mongst scientists—a dullard.] *Savans* air
Their special sapience at Societies—
The Geographical, Statistical,
Linnæan or Anthropological,
The Geological, the Chemical,
Entomological or Physical,
Or Astronomical, or that invites
The Meteorologist, Zoologist
Or medical scrutator. What a throng
Of meetings, congresses, associations

Perturb the learnèd and unlearnèd, where
The Sisyphe of science toil to roll
Incongruent theories to Alpine heights
Of intellectual dulness ! Genius,
Apart from turbulence and public strife
Less wordy than instructive, meditates ;
The Gordian problems of the universe
Lab'ring to solve in true Promethean spirit.
Science and Social Science, Medicine,
Church, Convocation, Orientalists,
Wesleyans, Baptists, Archæologists,
The Internationals and Temperance
Hold conferences yearly, which perplex
Their authors and their audience, and rehearse
In tedious verbiage Utopian views.
The press reports "proceedings," mostly crown'd
By "soirées" and "excursions," and the world
Is dazzled with an erudite display
Of names and memoirs. At vacation-tide,
The members of the party-colour'd House
Of Commons tickle their electors' ears
With extra-parliamentary harangues,
For sense and grammar to reporters' pens
Indebted. Ev'ry *millionaire* conceives
Himself to be an orator and gapes
For eminence—be he a knighted cit.,
A publican, newsvendor, cotton-broker,
Beggary banker in an abject town,
Draper or biscuit-baker,—such entreat
The holders of the franchise ; waiving rest,
Impairing health in their ambitiousness

To serve their country ; either for a shire
Or narrow borough ; whilst their vaulting dames,
At Court presented by th' compliant spouse
Of some Lord President or Chancellor,
Their mightiest wish fulfil and gratify,
The last infirmity of female minds.
The " Carlton " and " Reform " their portals ope
To money'd politicians. Fogies sit
Peering above their " glasses " down Pall Mall
At women and the carriages, anon
Blue-books inspecting. It were iteration
In these scribation times to represent
Those haunts of human selfishness—the Clubs—
Where factions plot conspiracies to clog
The Cabinet and form an " Opposition " ;
Where idlers glean the follies of the town
And chatter defamation to kill time ;
And whence proprietors of newspapers
Direct commands to Fleet Street and the Strand,
Against an enemy outpouring gall,
Or thundering, anonymously couch'd,
The editorial WE, to startle fools.
O Press immaculate ! of anarchy,
Lying, scurrility, venality,
And ignorance a medley, who shall sing
Thy praises unbemoil'd ! A fev'rish tone
Of thought the social thermoscope reveals
Amongst the peoples, by a wanton press
Diffus'd, encourag'd. As an axiom
Journalists swear, " Nul n'aura de l'esprit
Que nous et nos amis." Authors indite

Their own reviews, inserted by a friend
In servile pages. Carping critics stab
With jealous malice books they do not read
Or comprehend. Royal and noble scribes
Rely on adulation, and the rich
Are toadied and extoll'd, the *nouveaux riches*,
Par excellence, because they like it most.
Love and uxoriousness in "comic" prints
Are flouted, melancholy jests devis'd
On suffering and death. The twaddling speech
Of public men ; a fire, an accident
In colliery, on river, or on rail
Gladdens the heart of editors, who greet
Catastrophes as "capital." The man
Is lauded for his gold. Thus tradesmen shine
As *dilettanti* and as *connoisseurs*
Instructed by a "dealer." The antique
In pictures, furniture, plate, china, glass
Is reproduc'd, and vended in Soho
To form collections—with their owner's death
At *Christie's* scatter'd as originals
Confounding "virtuosi." In the journals
Devoted mainly to "Society,"
On "Animated Nature" articles—
That is, a portrait and biography—
Appear of men and women popular
Or own'd by "Fashion"—the diplomatist,
Merchant, philanthropist, financier,
Unquestionable female, marchioness,
Doctor of secret practice, general,
Artist and actor ; illustrated trash

Accepted as authentic. Subjects grave
And difficult are confidently view'd
With superficial levity—which range
From Chaos to Cremation. Restlessness,
Mental and physical, distracts the age.
Manners are lost, good breeding has decay'd,
Corrupt is sentiment. Anxiety
And discontent prevail. Society
Contriving for the future (with the past
Dissatisfied) adores inquietude.
Death ushers rest. With unction to their souls
The well-worn apophthegm of Rochefoucault
Survivors lay. Hero and miscreant,
Palsied in heart or muscle, brain or lung,
Complete their sev'ral course. Of all our race,
A thousand millions antic on the globe
And untold thousand millions lapp'd in dust,
What mortal shall escape OBLIVION ?

XVII.

The Season closes. From the smutty town
Each wight that has the leisure and the gold
To the seaside or rustic seat repairs.
In search of pleasure, Woman hastes to Ryde
And Cowes—a few to yacht, but most to flirt.
How finical her raiment ; how exact
In fit, shape, style ; to suit the skies marine,
And outstrip others—heedless of her creed
That Woman clad not ere she learnt to sin

(From modesty, not show, impell'd to dress),
 And that the Nereids, Neptunian nymphs,
 Wanton unrob'd. Yachtsmen, in many a case,
 Their vessels less for pleasure than renown
 Maintain, being oftentimes by *mal de mer*
 Desp'rately gravell'd. Much like those who "race"
 For popularity, or to complete
 A fancied education. So, of old,
In Banco Regis to have spent a term
 To sow those dissipated cereals
 Men call "wild oats" in high repute was held
 By bucks and wits. [Who can describe the Sea?
 ΘΑΛΑΣΣΑ! more delightful,—terrible,—
 Serene—alluring—furious—pitiless—
 Beautiful—treacherous—enchanting—cruel—
 Inconstant—mighty—horrid and outrageous—
 Than Juno in her majesty, when zon'd
 By Venus' girdle]. With a topsail breeze,
 Over the long Victoria course, from Ryde
 Twice round the Nab, competing for the Cup,
 Yachts of all rigs and sizes—schooners, yawls,
 And cutters—make a pretty flying start,
 With gaff and spinnakers and headsails set,
 Passing the line. * * *
 * * * The race exciting grows
 Down Channel, as they tack against the tide.
 Damag'd and scatter'd they file past the pier,
 Completing half the distance, sailing free
 With favourable current. Luffing up
 With wind to starboard and a mizzen sail,
 The winning yawl doubles once more the Nab,

Tacks cleverly to fetch the mark at Cowes,
And scudding to the goal beneath a cloud
Of canvas (with allowance made for time
To spare) secures the victory and prize.
Need we enlarge on yachting? little seen
Or understood by landsmen, who observe
The start and finish only. Who regards,
Save two or three small yacht-clubs, triumphs lost
By fouling, topmast broke, or mainsail split;
Races for cutters round the Wight; a flood
Of rain, a rolling sea, a glorious breeze;
Unbroken calm, uninteresting sails
Or frequent squalls, with blending sea and sky;
Or moderate south-westerns hardening
To steady gales with slowly-falling glass?
The niggard and the lean in pocket choose
Fair weather for aquatics, and extract
From half-a-crown or less substantial joys,
Without anxiety or risk—no whit
Inferior to those who own a yacht.
A crew of mercenary boatmen ply
At ev'ry seaport, eager to persuade
Unweeing visitors to dare the deep,
And learn off-hand of nautical concerns
The rugged terminology. Our coasts,
Throng'd with an ever-shifting human swarm,
Present more motley objects than the town.

Tho' fashionable, Ryde to be "correct"
Professes; with contempt of the resorts
In Thanet's Isle, whither vulgarians hie

Their gross enjoyments freely to pursue.
Ryde *may* be naughty—*is* (what place is not ?)
Yet veils her improprieties, as vice
Stands on its best behaviour to be deem'd
Reproachless. Those in am'rous bondage held
By Hymen's new-forg'd fetters value much
The Island, in the evanescent days
(Too few, too brief) which fill the honeymoon.
Such, like philosophers (on diff'rent grounds)
Escape the crowd ; to Blackgang, Alum Bay,
Niton and Freshwater confine their range,
Sooth'd by the placid air ; content to shun
The lively pier and fleet which gaily rides
Upon the bosom of the Solent. Spring
Benign renewing increase sheds its gifts
Profusely on the Isle of Wight, and lends
Delights unnumber'd to her various shore.
Her landscapes fair, alternate down and dale ;
Scenes picturesque, romantic, wild, sublime,
Now Claude recalling, now Salvator's art ;
Cliffs towering and rocks precipitous
'Mongst which " the Needles " raise their wasted
 crag,
Of myriad flights of gulls the clam'rous home ;
Offer the doating, weary and recluse,
Tranquillity of nature unexcell'd
By other lands—as precious as the calm
Of Schevening, the stillness of Saint Goar.

But pleasure-seekers loathe repose. The noise
Of Brighton, with its showy drive, its pier,

Aquarium and Pavilion, aimless lives
Inclinest exchange the hubbub of the town
For sound and bustle by the silver sea.
Cœlum mutant non animum, as health
Is overlook'd, the shingly strand untrod,
The day in trifling purposes consum'd
Of vanity and passion. Affluence
Decrepit to the southern coast retreats
To die, like Romeo Coates, with grace; and claim
Post obit notice of a blank career
With dull display of pompous funeral.

With regal Brighton gaudy Scarborough
Contests the palm. In miscellaneous rout,
Girls frivolous, who daily sacrifice
Thrice to the Graces; matrons staid, and males
In waiting—relatives and spouses—mix
With carpet-baggers, cheap excursionists
And trippers, who at seasons inundate
Sands, cliffs, the Spa, the Castle, and the Mount,
From all the Ridings, and vicinal shires
Of Lancaster and Stafford. Such as sweep,
Like locusts in the summer months, the shores
Of Lytham, Blackpool, and the smoother sands
New Brighton spreads to Wallasey (a lair
Of wreckers in the past). The fact'ry girl,
From Oldham, Preston, Ashton, Manchester,
Saucily wriggles in her glossy gown
And wond'rous head-gear. From the furnaces
Etruria kindles, wenches with their swains
Ungainly; colliers from the Wigan mines;

Barbarian boobies from the territory
Entitled "black," with voices guttural
And raucous as the Cornishman or Turk ;
Females with cuboid faces, Golgothæ
(In Lancashire endemic), savage clowns
Lag, shuffle, loll, and, elbow squeamish dames
Who practise sea-side manners and a lisp
To indicate "gentility." The beach,
As common ground, amusement great affords
To all. The nice and eke the sullied bathe
For health and comfort. Toddlers children delve
And wade unto their knees denuded. Men
Jeune and corpulent are natant seen ;
Damsels rotund and slender. Ancient maids,
A cable grasping, flounder in the surf,
Sallow and lank, burlesquing Aphroditè
Anadyomenè. Hobbard-de-hoys
And lubbers of all ages, servant-girls
And giddy sluts the toiling ass provoke,
The hard-mouth'd pony, goaded in the rear
By stolid lad or stony-featur'd hag,
Cramm'd with abuse and railing, vented loud
Occasion needing. Punch and Judy play
A rôle travestied. Roundabouts and swings
Divert the indolent. A *roaring trade*
Is driven by the photographic tout,
The vain inveigling to perpetuate
Their physiognomy, all things unlike
In earth or heav'n—therefore to worship which
Were non-idolatrous. The hungry prey
On shrimps and oysters purchas'd at a stall,

Or from itinerant beldam, neatly drap'd
With cap and apron her comestibles
To warrant. Ham, with eggs, and rounds of beef
Appease voracious churls. The victualler
And tapster spurious floods unceasing draw
Of beer and whiskey. Appetite as keen
Attacks superior stomachs, which ingest
As ravenous, less publicly ; unless
The bolt of Cupid queasy thoughts incites,
Such as perturb the vidual element
Exerting wily stratagems t'ensnare
Old bachelors and others, humourous, *rum*
(As Swift would say), by woman oft subdued,
Like Uncle Toby, tho' intrepid else.
The human aggregate thus feebly mix'd,—
Too sorrily compounded to be nam'd
“ Society,”—in clothing, manners, looks,
Absurdly pied, assembles on the Pier,
And promenades, encouraging the band.

Southport, Llandudno, Rhyl, localities
Dear to the Liverpoolian. The first
Rectangular and formal, mostly known
By its Aquarium, where octopods
Disclose their vague anatomy. The wives
And progeny of Mersey traders here
Flounce, strut and swell, with consequential air
More ludicrous than the invertebrates
Which move their wonder. Bathers favour Rhyl,
Low, level, uninteresting. The Great Orme
Projects his rocky summit o'er the bay

Of flourishing Llandudno, peopled much
By dippers in the sea and invalids.

Let's change the *venue* and reseek the South.
Who shall recite the glories which pertain
To you, O Margate, Ramsgate, Broadstairs trine !
From those *pre-locomotive* times when men
Yclepèd Cockneys sought your amber sands
By lumb'ring coach (refreshing drive) thro' Strood,
Sittingbourne, Faversham and Canterbury ;
Over the ridgy steeps of fruitful Kent,
Or sail'd from Billingsgate aboard the "Hoy,"
Inhaling tonic breezes at the Nore
Beyond the mouth of Tamesis' "foul stream."
Can aught compare with Margate in the flush
Of August ? *Sui generis*, she stands
Unique in Radical extravagance
And jollity ; an annual confluence
Of London publicans and shopkeepers.
Her ancient jetty, her more modern pier,
Her sands for miles outstretch'd, cretaceous cliffs,—
With Pegwell Bay, a paradise of shrimps,—
Her pleasant bathing, minstrels by the waves,
Vendors of ornaments, Bohemian life,
Convenient morals, "Tivoli," Bazaars ;
Like Cleopatra, exercise a charm
Age cannot wither, custom cannot stale.
Ryde, Brighton, Scarborough must bow their
heads
Eclips'd before the talismanic spells
Of blithesome Margate. Trippers, fashion, rank

(Social extremes) molest her not ; she thrives
On prosperous vulgarity, nor hears
The hurly-burly of the pitman, nor
The unintelligible clattering
Of loobies, oafs and jades who tend the loom.

From Ramsgate navigate the Downs to Deal,
A hive of boatmen and of beersellers,
And thence to Dover, menace to the French
In Buonapartè's era ; now the road
Invasive of pacific foreigners
From grimy Calais. Mount to Shakespeare's Cliff,
The castle see, there's nought beside to view.
Folkestone—from suit ecclesiastical
And patronage *genteel* important grown—
Traffics with fair Boulogne, the refuge once
Of outlaw'd debtors, when the "Marshalsea,"
"Fleet," "sponging-house," and sheriff's officer
Were formidable entities. Herne Bay
(Within the Foreland) dowdy, silent, sad,
A sea-cave of Trophonius, unlit
By smiles or mirth. On the Essexian coast,
Southend as mournful, with its lengthy pier;
To Sheerness *vis-à-vis*. Gravesend, a shrine
To lowly Londoners, for ninepence reach'd
By steamer, or by rail almost as cheap ;
Of shrimps the El Dorado, promis'd land
Of watercresses (plant salubrious
To sufferers cuticular). How beat
The pulses of the languid artisan,
Sempstress and struggling shopkeeper, who, long

Incarcerated in the alleys, mews
 And courts of Seven Dials, Saffron Hill,
 (Diseaseful strongholds), quick'ning draughts respire
 Of luscious ether, round the grassy slopes
 Of Rosherville, the brow of Windmill Hill,
 Springhead's clear rivulet and Cobham Park !

Disdaining geographic rules, our course
 Aberrant tow'ards the Suffolk coast we veer.
 Lowestoft, extremely east, a quiet, prim
 But charming spot, with noble esplanade
 And pier substantial, potent to resist
 The fury of the German Ocean. Sands,
 As firm and fair as fringe our island, tempt
 The promenader, when the tide is low,
 To stroll along the shore and watch the ships
 That occupy the "Roads," within the track
 Where treach'rous quicksands lurk—a frequent
 scene

Of shipwrecks. Fishing luggers to and fro
 Constantly sailing indicate the trade,
 Which railway vans contribute to connect
 With parts inland. Between the beach and cliff,
 The plains or "denes" (in ages past submerg'd)
 Conduct to the "Ravine," the Warren Hills,
 Lighthouse and Common, bracing solitudes
 To mind and body health-recruiting. Fern,
 Gorse, heather deck the uplands, overspread
 With softest turf, and closer to the shore
 Th' *Arundo arenaria* (Reed-grass
 Or Marram rush), as on the Frisian dunes,

The sand condenses and retards the waves.
Not distant far, one hundred years ago,
A manufactory of porcelain
Existed ; by Knickknackitarians
Of fragile china and collectors held
In estimation. Steamers from the pier
To Southwold ply, around whose roofs and spire
The migratory swallow swarms in spring
From regions less austere ; and whence she plumes
Her flight autumnal to a warmer sky.
On summer nights, the sea made luminous
With phosphorescence—due to forms minute
Of life marine—assumes a crest of light,
As tho' chill Amphitrite, from her grot
Of coral, pearl and seaweed, wrought with art
Divine, and wreath'd enchantment o'er the locks
Of old Oceanus.

In rivalry
With Lowestoft, Yarmouth boastingly extols
Her sandy littoral, for herrings prais'd
And mackerel ; her town, for Lacon's ales.
From th' Eastern counties and the marshy flats
Of Ely, farmers after harvest turn
With longing seaward. These, in company
Of publicans from the metropolis
(A never-failing item by the sea)
And boist'rous spirits, such as e'er abound
In ev'ry wat'ring-place, at Yarmouth meet.

From Norwich, by a cheering drive, the coach

Bears us to Cromer, clerical, strait-lac'd,
Respectable ; by surface wells supplied
With water. Thus th' inhabitants imbibe
Their ancestors, as centrally stands
The churchyard, and its decomposing dead,
Transform'd to nitrates, trickle thro' the glebe
To impregnate with pois'nous taint the springs.
Defend us, Heav'n, from Cromer ! Let us flee
To site more healthful, and direct our path
To Hastings, dwelling-place of invalids ;
Or Bognor, dear to bathers. Pause a while
At recent Bournemouth, sought by *poitrinaires*
For mellowness of atmosphere, and tread
The sands of Weymouth held by George the Third
In admiration. Farther west, Torquay,
Relaxing climate, by consumptives view'd
With partiality as an abode,
Especially in winter. 'Tis a spot
Delightful. Tors, bays, downs, woods, caverns,
walks
Arrest and interest its visitors,
Who, spite of chronic pulmonary ills,
Diversion and enjoyment to decline
But seldom seem. At balls hibernal, girls
With *one lung only* waltz with hearts diseas'd
And visc'ral hypochondriacs, who postpone
Physical troubles in the genial air
Recuperative of Torbay. The Down
Of Babbicombe, with Anstis' lovely cove ;
Watcombe's sweet valley, Cyclopean rocks
And splendid prospect were munificent

Possession ; but the teeming cliffs difform
With brushwood cloth'd and flow'rs, secluded
creeks,

Fine promontories, charming walks and drives,
Natural caverns and beauteous scenery
Crown its felicities. Geologists,
Risking a fractur'd skull, Kent's hole explore,
By humble candles aided. Stalactite
And stalagmite of typical deposit,
In which th' exuviæ of beasts extinct
Embedded lie, reward their hazardous
Adventure ; and at Brixham (fishful town)
Across the bay, a fossilif'rous cave
Like objects renders—bones of cave-bear, elk,
Hyæna. Valetudinarians
The homilies of science disregard,
Dreaming this globe to be the universe,
Themselves, its centre ; for disease instils
Not magnanimity, but selfishness,
And resolution quails the most at death
In blasé invalids and wither'd men
Unbound by occupation, who have nought
Of light in life. Such dread extinction most.

Between steep holts, a Rhine in miniature,
The Dart from Totnes bridge meandrous flows
Thro' reaches almost landlock'd to the sea ;
Agreeable trip by steamer, which but few
Fail to accomplish who to Berry Head,
Brixham and Paignton's sands extend their way.
On westward from Torquay, by Ivybridge :

Plymouth historic, but repulsive, town,
 And stone-built Truro, thro' a country rich
 In woods and cultivated slopes. Digress
 To dingy Falmouth, of its harbour proud,
 And devious Helston in a neighbourhood
 Stanniferous. A drive of seven miles
 Brings us to Mullion Cove, whose cliffs and
 caves

Are striking, wild and sombre. The Vroe Rock,
 Gue-graze (of steatite) ; The Horse, The Rill—
 Two jutting headlands. Gem of all this coast
 Is Kynance Cove, where dark-vein'd serpentine
 (Magnesian silicate), from igneous force
 Disruptive, rears an arch magnificent
 And rocky masses, burnish'd by the waves,
 Conspicuously resplendent in the sun.
 Turning a point, the scene imposing grows.
 Islets of serpentine ; on either side
 The coves, the swelling sea, recesses, caves,
 Fill'd by the tide. "The Parlour," "Drawing-
 room,"

And "Kitchen." On Asparagus Rock exists
 A blow-hole curious—the "Post Office"—
 By closure of which aperture arise
 A roaring noise and show'r of foam. This rock
 Ascend to gain of the subjacent bay
 A view, the "Gull Rock," "Steeple," and "the
 Lizard,"

The last a straggling village, which attain'd
 The "Lighthouses" and Lizard Point are seen
 And Bumble Cliff. Beyond, from the mainland

Detach'd, a few low rocks (the Todden) lie
Most southern point of England. Near this spot,
In Landewednack Churchyard, all the stones
Are hewn from serpentine, sad records most
Of mariners by wreckful tempests slain.

Retrace our steps to Helston. Thro' a waste
Of dreary mines and moorland, by Camborne
And Hayle, approach Penzance's spacious bay
Wash'd by the blue Atlantic's ocean flood
(Much murm'ring sea), whose heaving, lengthful
waves

Roll parallel with the beach. The balmy air,
At brumal seasons, by the Gulf Stream warm'd,
To th' hemorrhagic, hectic, scrofulous,
Catarrhal and pituitous affords
Climatic bounties. Fashion presses not
Its sandy shore, but (ailing) wanders far
To Pau, Mentone and the Engadine,
In vogue as *sanatoria*. Yet Penzance
Is rich in interest. Tow'rds Marazion,
Saint Michael's Mount majestically rears
Its slates and granite—here with verdure crown'd,
Here bare and imminent. Its tower climb
To occupy the lantern (which ensures
Authority domestic, if the Gods
Have bless'd thee with a spouse) and mark the
view.

Recross the shingle if the tide be low,
And, ere inspecting works Druidical,
From th' Esplanade, enter the picturesque,

But dirty, Newlyn, nest of fishermen,
To learn how pilchards, herrings, mackerel,
Are captur'd by the drift net and the seine.
(The first are salted, pack'd and forwarded
For Lent, to the Levant, which in return
Exports *Sardines à l'huile*). Excursion make
Over the moor, by Madron, to a pile
Of rocks, Trengwainton Cairn, 'midst solitudes
Unbroken. Further, on Boswavas moor
The Lanyon Quoit, or Giant's Cromlech, stands ;
A tomb consisting of three granite pillars,
Five feet in height, triangularly plac'd,
On which a flat rude parallelogram
Of granite rests supported, fifteen feet
In greatest length. On one side, two flat stones
Are in the earth inserted. Opposite
A stone stands edgewise. Near Lanyon farmhouse,
Appears the Holed or Creep stone—Men an tol—
Of two rude columns and a circular disc
Compos'd, the latter standing on its edge
Just wide enough thro' which a man may crawl,
Whereby, 'tis said, invet'rate aches are cur'd.
The "Skryffa" or "Men Skryffa" is hard by,
A rough, three-sided pyramid, inscrib'd
"Riolobran Cunoal fil"—suppos'd
To be the gravestone of a Celtic chief.
Large stones are scatter'd round—of tumuli
The relics ? More remotely on a moor,
Steep, wild and unfrequented, can be trac'd
Of Chun, or Chywoon Castle, the remains ;
A circular mass of stones,—by an outer heap

Apparently surrounded—fifty yards
Transversal, of a gateway bearing signs
In two huge blocks of granite. The Chun Quoit,
Or Cromlech, hence within a furlong rests—
A stone of mushroom shape, eighteen feet broad
On four huge slabs reposing. From this height
An amphitheatre deserted spreads,
Th' Atlantic in the distance. Savage, bleak,
Inhospitable, desolate the spot,
With moorstone studded, but untrespas'd on
By habitation or pursuit of man.
Visit Saint Buryan by road, exempt
From turnpikes. Note its Early Norman church
Of granite, coffin-shaped memorial
Of Clarice Bolleit, and the Christian cross
On steps outside. From this locality
May be distinguish'd, when the day is clear,
The Scilly Isles, or Cassiterides,
Whither Phœnician traders roam'd for tin.
Diverge towards Boskenna to inspect
The "Merry Maidens," a Druidical
Circle of nineteen stones, four feet in height
(Much like a circle near to Keswick, form'd
Of eight-and-forty stones, within its round
A smaller one enclosing). In the croft
Adjacent, stand the "Pipers," pillars twain,
About sixteen feet high; and, in the hedge
Between, a stone exists, which near its top
An aperture, orbicular in shape,
Possesses, of five inches and a half.
Amongst the country people, this is call'd

The "sanctifying" stone, and is believ'd
The purpose with the Britons to have serv'd
Of passing children thro' soon after birth.
Pass on to Treen or Treryn. Cross the fields
To Trereen Dinas, or Treen Castle rocks,
Circular stones, of ancient fortified
Positions manifesting traces. Here
Burst into view the stately granite rocks,
Surmounted by the "Logan," finely pois'd.
(Give praise to Lubbock, and his efforts bless
Our monuments archaic to preserve,
Many of which have perish'd—overturn'd,
Destroy'd or shatter'd by barbarian hands).
Gaining Saint Leven churchyard with its cross
And lich-stone, in our walk beholding views
Continually new of headlands, creeks
And rocks, we reach the "Hol'd Head of Penwith,"
Or Tol-peden-penwith, a frightful chasm,
Wide, yawning, blacken'd, opening from the cliff
Above, constricted downwards to the shore.
The clust'ring granite columns at this point
Are singularly grand. Across the moor
We halt at the "Land's End," and its Hotel (!),
Last house in England, verging on the brink.
Descend the shelving crags, extremely west,
And on the precipice's edge observe,
In the declining day, the fissur'd rocks,
Dark, frowning, bare, in piles irregular
Superimpos'd (as if Enceladus,
By Jove o'erwhelm'd, his prostrate might had
strain'd

Beneath his granite bonds and rift the earth,
Upheaving wide the fragments) ; the grey tints
Of cloud and sky ; the ever-restless main
Interminably stretching ; on the right
Cape Cornwall, with, more southward, Sennen Cove
And Whitesand Bay ; the vessels near and far ;
The Longship's Rocks and Lighthouse, two miles
off ;
The silence broken only by the surge
And scream of strep'rous birds—absorbing scene
To artist and geologist ! How weird,
How awful and terrific in a storm !

“First and last Inn in England,” on return
By Sennen, greets the trav'ler who delays
T' accept refreshment tender'd by the host
Whose sign-board swings duplicitous aloft.

XVIII.

I DARE not linger in recall of times
To railways antecedent, when select
And famous spirits at resorts inland
A galaxy presented. Iron roads
Have long since doom'd to limbo the “Defiance,”
“Highflier,” “Regent,” “Magnet,” and the line
Of mails and coaches which diurnal sped
From London caravanserais (The Bull
And Mouth, The Golden Cross, Green Man and
Still,

Spread Eagle, The Cross Keys, La Belle Sauvage,
 George and Blue Boar, The Swan with bifid Neck,
 The White Horse, Piccadilly, hostelryes
 To travellers peculiar) ; and now
 Ten thousand rove where units once were told.
 But glory has departed. BATH retains
 Her springs and pump-room as of old, but where
 Are all her dissipations, and the charm
 Of past celebrities, with Nash, the Beau
 (Tyrannic exquisite), by name unknown
 To most of modern rambles? TUNBRIDGE
 WELLS

Sheds rills ferruginous. Her Toadstone Rock
 The wanderer may interest, but where
 Are now her brilliant coteries? Proceed
 To CHELTENHAM and LEAMINGTON, compos'd
 Of social atoms vulgarly diverse,
 Where are the wit and fashion which imbib'd
 Their sparkling waters? Mottled HARROGATE
 Fumes as sulphureous, with nauseous streams
 Deobstruent in virtue, to be gulp'd
 By swinish multitudes. The tepid founts
 Of MATLOCK and of BUXTON lull the pains
 Of palsy, crippled, gouty invalids,
 With blood reverse of noble. MALVERN tempts,
 With hydropathic solace, visitors
 Listless and commonplace, whose intellect
 Is narrow'd to the newspaper. Where'er
 We stray—The Lakes, Wales, Lynton, Inver-
 ness,
 Paris, The Geysers, Norway, Switzerland,

Rome, Naples, Venice, Cadiz, Bucharest,
O'er all the Continent—commercial men
Travel in blankets, cloth, wine, Sheffield goods,
Steel rails and guano. Dames in stiff black silk,
A "house" in the Rue Vivienne represent;
From Nottingham a brace of lace dealers
Are met at Antwerp or on Waterloo;
On Tyrol's Alps a market gardener
From Fulham; forging bankrupts at Seville,
Lawyers' and bankers' clerks upon the Rhine,
At Baden, Homburg, and Wiesbaden, erst
The homes of "Trente et Quarante" and
"Roulette,"

Now banish'd to Monaco's boundary,
Delicious Monte Carlo—much abjur'd
By journalists, last haven of the "die."
Weekday and Sabbath the eternal dirge
Of "Faites le jeu, Messieurs," enchains the soul
Of male and female gamesters. CLUVIA sits
In tiny gloves with tassels, braceleted,
Toying with jewell'd pencil; FLORA stakes
Napoleons with lavish hand disburs'd
By her *cicisbeo*; CATULLA smiles
On her impassion'd victims—Sirens all
And whited sepulchres, whose favours hint
Elegies unreveal'd on suicides.

The European map grows tame. Ceylon,
Mexico, Texas, California,
Australia, the Pacific, the Brazils,
Abound with trav'lers, whose demeanour smacks

Of taverns and tobacco, with a spice
Of abstracts from the Ledger and a void
Of arts ingenuous. On ev'ry ship
And steamer are encounter'd nondescripts
On bus'ness errands. On the *P. and O.*,
Officials from the Post-Office, *en route*
For Egypt; druggists, milliners for the Cape,
China and India; for New South Wales,
Woolstaplers; cotton factors for the "States,"
Singers and actors; dealers in hides, bones,
Meat-extracts, blood and tallow for the "Plate,"
And Valparaiso. Traffickers in corn
For San Francisco; bart'ners in dry goods
For Western Africa; whilst round the world
Erratic peers and members of the House
Of Commons yacht for pleasure. *Mister Cook*,
Sanction'd by arch-episcopal support,
His tariff for the Holy Land proclaims,
The Nile, Palmyra, Baalbec (whisper not
Of trips in droves to Paris, which would seem
An act of bathos, in connexion breath'd
With Tadmor of the Desert.) Let us trust,
Auspice Coquo, we shall soon acquire
Of the gorilla and the chimpanzee
Full knowledge in their *habitat*, when man,
With elephants and telegraphic poles,
Has to the Lake Nyanza render'd safe
The journey, and attainable by all.
Then shall we own the likeness of our race
Throughout the globe, and—as we plantains
munch

Beneath the ramage of some mighty tree,
By bot'nists undescrib'd, upon the bank
Of sluggish Congo—free from prejudice,
The polygamic Negro and the White
Comparing, we may be reminded much,
How often on the ocean, railway, road,
And at hotels, we've fail'd to ascertain
(As puzzling as the calling and the grade
Of their companions) concubine from wife.

THE END.

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